# Lacson accuses GMA of using PCSO funds in election bid

## Pidal probers to junk Joker ruling, says Nene

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

SEN. Joker Arroyo's opinion recognizing the right to privacy of Ignacio Arroyo would be rejected by the members of the joint Senate committee looking into the alleged money laundering activities of Ignacio's brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, opposition Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

PIDAL/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

IN HIS much-awaited privilege speech, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday of using government funds to finance a private group urging her to run in the May presidential election.

Lacson said the President was corrupt like her spouse, Jose Miguel Arroyo, because she allegedly used funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to finance the printing of posters and the holding of a motorcade in the run-up to

LACSON/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, October 14, 2003 ★★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 308 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# KILLING OF AL-GHOZI

# Shootout or rubout?

## *Magsaysay: Too good to be true*

**By Julie S. Alipala**
**and Edwin O. Fernandez**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*
**and Christian V. Esguerra**
*in Manila*

SOLD, and then executed.

A military officer based in Zamboanga City told the INQUIRER that Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was "executed after the Pacer paid a big amount of money to his supposed guards and coddlers." He was referring to the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response unit, the elite Philippine National Police team.

Another Army official involved in the three-month hunt for the country's most famous escapee said the killing of the top Jemaah Islamiyah bomb-maker might have been a set-up.

"There are indications that the incident was a classic military scenario," the official told the INQUIRER, also on condition of anonymity.

"My reading is that Al-Ghozi had been under government custody even before the so-called shootout," the official claimed.

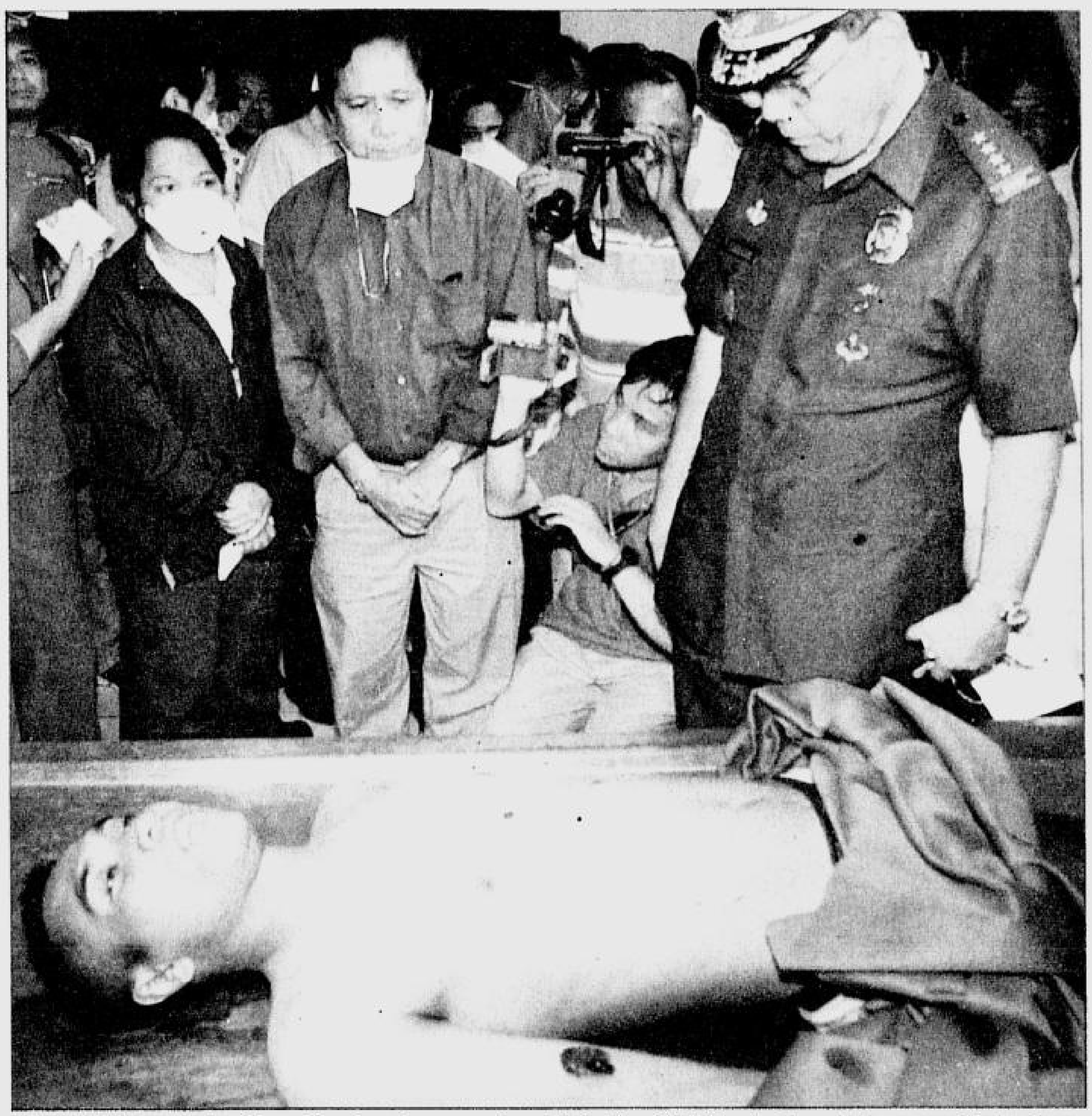
A senator, whose family is closely identified with the military establishment, also suggested that Al-Ghozi was executed, by the group that was also responsible for his escape from PNP headquarters in Camp Crame in July.

"It's too good to be true," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate national defense committee. "After about 90 days of 'intense' search for him, he suddenly gets killed in a supposed shootout. This only confirms earlier reports that Al-Ghozi had long been in the hands of the military and when the 'right time' came, he had to be 'sacrificed.'"

Magsaysay said the rubout theory was bolstered by the statement of North Cotabato Gov. Manuel Piñol that there was no shootout in his area—contrary to the PNP's claim.

But Ebdane, appearing at a press briefing, strongly denied suggestions that Al-Ghozi had been executed, or that the killing was deliberately staged in time for the visit of US President George W.

SHOOTOUT / A10



PRESIDENT Macapagal and her adviser Jesus Dureza receive a briefing from PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. as they view the body of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi inside a hospital morgue in General Santos City. The Islamic militant escaped from Camp Crame three months ago. ROGER MARGALLO

## A big victory in war on terror—GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised the Philippine National Police for the killing of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, saying the death of the top Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist was a major victory in the war on terrorism.

The United States, Australia and Singapore also welcomed the killing of the Indonesian Islamic militant, whose stunning escape from Camp Crame in July embarrassed the Macapagal administration and heightened fears of terror attacks across Southeast Asia.

Financial markets likewise reacted positively to Al-Ghozi's killing, which analysts said provided a much-needed boost to the government and eased a major security headache ahead of US President George W. Bush's visit to the Philippines.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 39.23 points, or 2.9 percent, at 1,384.43, its highest close since April 19, 2002 when it finished at 1,401.36 points. On the Philippine Dealing System, the peso closed at 54.535, a 12-week high against the US dollar.

Ms Macapagal flew to General Santos City to look at the bullet-riddled body of Al-Ghozi in a morgue and congratulate the policemen who gunned down the key operative of Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional terrorist group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

She said Al-Ghozi's death should serve as a warning to terror groups that they would not find sanctuary in the Philippines.

"The death of Al-Ghozi signals that terrorists will never get far in the Philippines, and that the long arm of the law

A BIG/ A10

## 'We walked out casually as if we were policemen'

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The country's most famous escapee and his two companions literally walked out of Camp Crame.

Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, the top bomb-maker of the Jemaah Islamiyah, escaped on July 14, with suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits Abdulmukim Edris and Omar Opik Lasal.

Of the three, only Lasal was recaptured alive.

"We just walked out casually. We met several cops on our way out but no one noticed us," Lasal told the INQUIRER in an interview.

During the escape, the trio ran into about 30 police trainees, two members of the PNP Special Action Force posted at the gates near Santolan Road, and several cops in blue uniforms guarding the opposite end of the gate.

"We pretended we were also policemen. We did not hurry, just walked casually," Lasal said in Filipino, with a smile.

Prior to the escape, Al-Ghozi told Lasal and other inmates that he would not allow himself to die in jail without a fight.

"I am going to escape," Lasal quoted Al-Ghozi as saying in broken Filipino.

Lasal said Edris and a fellow Abu Sayyaf suspect, Martin Bali, alias Abu Tagalog, were present when Al-Ghozi made his announcement.

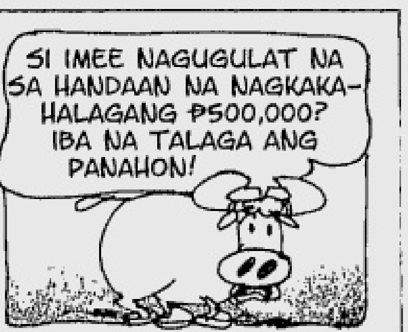
Lasal said it was Edris who volunteered to help Al-Ghozi.

But first, Edris asked for a mobile phone. He explained that he needed it to contact "some access."

Al-Ghozi, Lasal said, gave Edris P3,500 in cash.

The first thing that Edris did was to allegedly befriend the jail's cook, a woman named Amor.

WE WALKED/ A8



SI IMEE NAGUGULAT NA SA HANDAAN NA NAGKAKAHALAGANG ₱500,000? IBA NA TALAGA ANG PANAHON!

## *Barrio fiesta for Bush to cost gov't ₱500,000*

**By Cynthia D. Balana**

A BARRIO fiesta-style reception worth at least half a million pesos awaits US President George W. Bush and his party when they arrive on Oct. 18 for an eight-hour state visit, according to Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Marcos said the banquet on the Malacañang grounds would cost at least P2,000 per person and that

BARRIO/ A10

## Lea to sing 'non-political, positive' songs for Bush

**By Leah C. Salterio**
*Contributor*
**and Juliet L. Javellana**
**and Gil Cabacungan Jr.**

"ANAK" by Freddie Aguilar. "Tomorrow" from "Annie," the Broadway hit. And maybe "On My Own" from "Les Miserables," another Broadway landmark.

Filipina international star Lea Salonga will sing these select numbers, her "personal choices," as visiting US President George W. Bush dines in Malacañang on Oct. 18, a source close to the singer-actress told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Responding to earlier protests by a party-list group against Salonga's appearance at the state dinner, the source noted that the songs were "positive and non-political."

The singer's mother Ligaya said her daughter was hardly concerned about the opposition of Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran.

"Lea is going, not because of politics, but to sing for the two presidents," said Mrs. Salonga. "She has sung for Philippine presidents before—Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. She has always been invited to perform in Malacañang, and she has always obliged."

It will also be the third time for Lea to perform for an American president. The first was in 1991, for the older President George Bush in Washington, and the second in 1994, for Bill Clinton in Boston.

The original "Miss Saigon"—for which role she won the Sir Lawrence Olivier Award in London and the Tony Award in New York—has likewise sung for Queen Elizabeth II of England, and for former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during the 1997 Women's Forum of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Manila.

Lea will be accompanied on Saturday

LEA/ A5

JOEL SOL CRUZ

WORLD-ACCLAIMED singer Lea Salonga will perform before two presidents.

## Bomber of RP envoy's house gets jail term

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court yesterday convicted an Islamic militant of bombing the Philippine ambassador's residence in 2000 and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

Abdul Jabar, 33, was also found guilty of involvement in two church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000. Officials have blamed the attacks on the Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional terrorist group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"We the judges state that Abdul Jabar has been lawfully proven guilty" on charges of possessing and using explosive materials, said Pramodana Kusumah, who presided over a three-judge panel.

State prosecutors had urged judges to sentence Jabar to life in prison for his role in preparing the explosives for the

BOMBER/ A10

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

# Second FRONT PAGE

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/10/14/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with rains |
| Baguio | Partly cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with rains |
| Laoag | Partly cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with rains | Davao | Cloudy with rains |

# Bush protest caravans start rolling, rolling

By Norman Bordadora, Carlito Pablo, Martin Marfil and Leila Salaverria *in Manila* and Clarice Colting, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MILITANT groups yesterday started their week-long protest actions against the state visit this week of US President George W. Bush which will culminate in the burning of 100 "star-spangled banners" on Saturday.

An estimated 7,000 peasants and rural poor belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Anak Pawis yesterday started a caravan from the provinces which will reach Metro Manila in time for the eight-hour state visit of Bush on Oct. 18.

"This is a democracy," said US Navy Capt. Dennis Williams in reaction to the expected escalation of protest actions before the arrival of Bush.

Bush will visit Manila en route to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on Oct. 22-23.

Williams spoke to reporters yesterday after visiting the House of Representatives where the US president is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress.

The protest caravan will be participated in by peasant and rural poor groups from the Ilocos, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Cagayan Valley and Southern Luzon. The groups will converge in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Laguna before proceeding to Metro Manila.

In Calamba, Laguna, around 2,000 peasants, workers, indigenous peoples, women and youth from various provinces in Southern Tagalog converged yesterday afternoon to start their six-day march to Manila.

Led by Southern Tagalog Opposed to the Presence of Bush (STOP Bush!) coalition, the protest march will culminate on Oct. 18 in Manila.

Hundreds of marchers from as far as Occidental and Oriental Mindoro arrived at around 6 a.m. at the Batangas pier where they were met by protesters from Batangas. The contingent held a short protest action in Lipa, Batangas.

STOP Bush! spokesperson Joseph Garcia called on all Filipinos to support the protest march by giving water and food to the marchers and joining the protest action itself.

Protesters from Laguna waved and passed on red and yellow banners printed with traffic signs bearing the words "STOP Bush!" and "Corruption Ahead" to welcome the protesters from other provinces in the region.

"Of course, there would be negotiations for the police to allow us to pass through the checkpoints. If they would not be convinced, we have contingency plans to ensure the caravan would reach Metro Manila," said KMP spokesperson Jim Fernando.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan has also announced the holding of simultaneous protest actions in key areas outside Metro Manila such as Clark Field in Pampanga, and in the cities of Cebu and Davao.

In Manila, the militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya or Pamalakaya kicks of its anti-Bush campaign today with a group of protesters swimming in the shallow waters off Manila Bay.

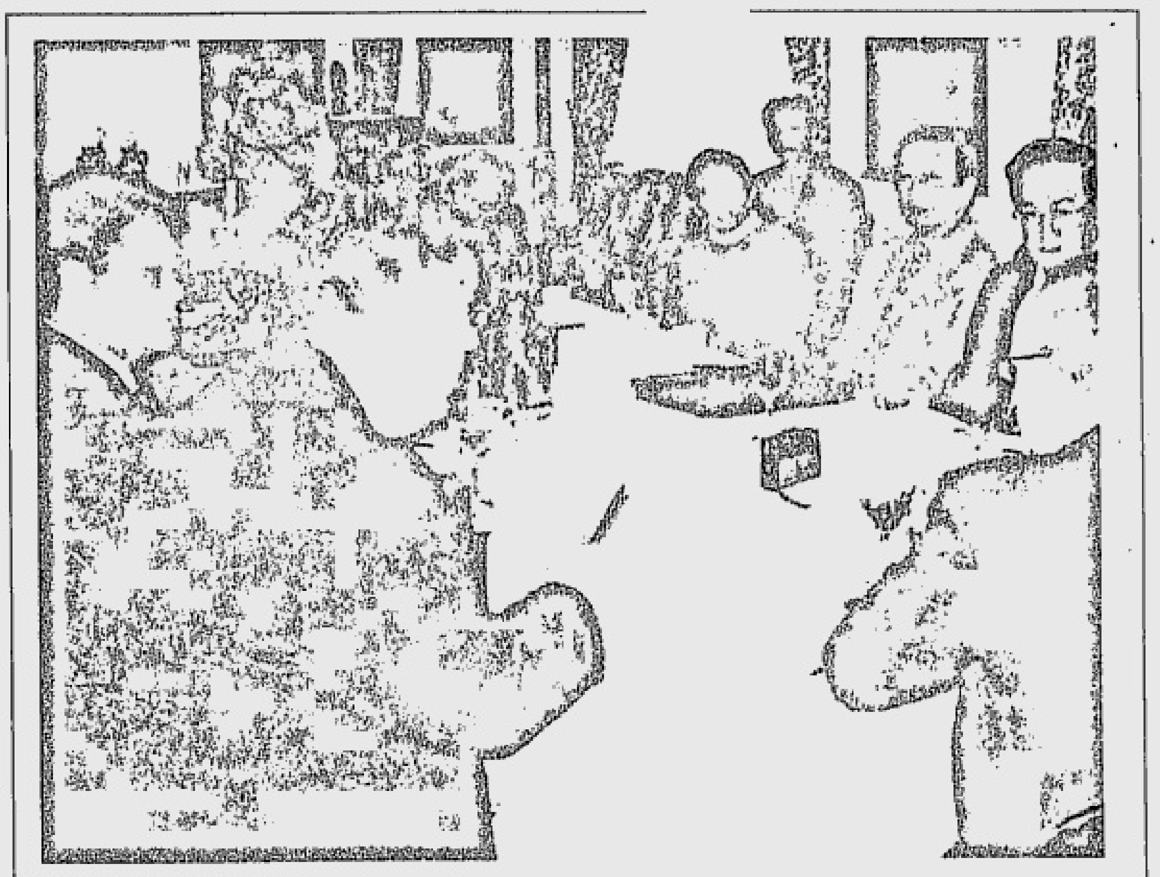
Pamalakaya protesters will carry waterproof placards and throw dry ice into the waters of the bay near the Folk Arts Theater and Cultural Center to produce "smoke" as a "poetic expression of disgust."

For its part, the Kilusang Mayo Uno said it will join the broad people's protest to welcome Bush arrival.

In Congress, some 20 party list and opposition congressmen will be wearing "peace ribbons" on Oct. 18 to protest US war policies.

Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) said that congressmen, describing themselves as "legislators against war," will wear the ribbons on their chest to "symbolically express their views against Bush's hawkish foreign policy."

Ocampo also called on the House leadership to say this early whether such action would constitute unruly behavior.



**FINALLY, PEACE?**

**TALKS to resume the formal peace negotiations between the government and the communist National Democratic Front have opened in Oslo, Norway. Seated around the peace table, clockwise from the center top, are NDF members Fidel Agcaoili, Juliet de Lima, Jose Ma. Sison and Luis Jalandoni; Norwegian State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Vidar Helgesen, Norwegian Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Sjur Torgerson and Philippine panel chair Silvestre Bello III.**

# Angry Ping raps 'judicial politics'

By Christine O. Avendaño

A VISIBLY angry Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday said he was tempted to fight the "judicial politics" besieging him with the Supreme Court's decision to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Lacson surfaced yesterday after a week away from the public eye to attack the Supreme Court in the Senate in addition to delivering the third chapter of his exposé against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In his speech, Lacson accused most of the Supreme Court justices with conspiring with the administration to "subvert the rule of law, the primacy of the Constitution over acts of the state, and the independence of the judiciary."

This after the high court ordered the reopening of the Kurating Baleleng case and its re-raffle to a Quezon City Regional Trial Court, "notwithstanding that neither the prosecution nor the respondents asked for it."

"It (the SC) went further to enumerate the courts to which the case should be reassigned citing outdated circulars which had been superseded by 1998 issuances limiting special courts in QC to branches 76, 81 and 212," Lacson said.

Lacson said that during the re-raffle last week, the raffle committee ignored the plea of his lawyers that they had a pending motion questioning the raffle.

"This is not the rule of law. It is the destruction of the rule of law," he said.

Because the high court could not provide him with justice, Lacson said he had "no other recourse but to fight this administration of greed, corruption and prostitution of democratic institutions."

"I am now even tempted to fight this kind of judicial politics on my own terms and outside the rotten justice system," he said.

"I hope and pray that this temptation will not get the better of me," he added.

In his privilege speech, he challenged the justices to a debate on their decision to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case, in which he is accused as an accessory.

# US to sign $30M grant for Mindanao dev't today

By Jennie L. Ilustre

WASHINGTON—United States Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Manila today, granting an initial $30 million for Mindanao's peace and development, the INQUIRER has learned.

The Education Initiative for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is a five-year comprehensive socio-economic program tied with a peace agreement between the Philippines and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

US President George W. Bush, who will make an eight-hour state visit to the Philippines Saturday, will announce this and other MOUs during his speech at the Batasang Pambansa before a joint session of Congress.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Romulo Neri will sign for the Philippines.

The MOU will be signed so that "once there is a peace agreement, there will be money right away for the transition process," an official source said Friday.

The $30-million appropriation is part of the 2004 supplemental budget approved last May by the 108th US Congress. The amount is part of the $100 million earmarked for the Philippines, which includes $49.5 million for development assistance and $20 million as economic support fund or ESF.

"The initiative is not just for ex-combatants, but it will also benefit the whole community," the source added. The amount will be used for livelihood program for ex-combatants, construction of roads and bridges, irrigation, nutrition and health, environment promotion and business support, among others.

The source added things would move quickly "if something dramatic would happen" next week. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is holding a summit on the Mindanao peace issue in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday and Friday.

But another source said last week, "Reaching a peace agreement won't be easy, it will likely take time. If at all, the parties will only agree to peace talks, and the $30 million is like a carrot" or incentive.

The education initiative will be carried out by the State Department's USAID. *With a Reuters report*

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# Paras ouster scored

THE RULING Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats officially replaced Rep. Jacinto Paras as party president for Negros Oriental yesterday, replacing him with Rep. Herminio Teves. Paras, however, will remain a Lakas member.

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez announced the replacement of Paras who, along with 19 other congressmen, had committed to support Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in next year's presidential election.

But Rep. Prospero Nograles (Davao City) and Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Surigao del Sur) said Paras had not been accorded due process.

"It was not democratic and it was a knee-jerk reaction," he said.

Pichay said the Paras was not even asked to formally explain his side to the Lakas national executive committee. *Cynthia Balana and Carlito Pablo*

# P864-B nat'l budget up for House debate

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE HOUSE committee on appropriations yesterday submitted for plenary debate the proposed P864.8-billion national budget for 2004, which includes P2.2 billion for the pay hike of soldiers and P1.9 billion for policemen.

Almost a third of the proposed budget at P271.5 billion has been earmarked for debt service payments of the national government's P3.2-trillion debt.

Rep. Rolando Andaya, committee chair, said that while the debt service fund was open to congressional scrutiny, it was "off-limits to alteration."

Andaya expects Congress to "do some nip-and-tuck on the budget, lopping off some fat from some areas, and adding muscle to the skinny parts."

The top 10 departments in terms of appropriations were the Department of Education, P110.5 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P48.2 billion; Department of National Defense, P43.9 billion; Department of Interior and Local Government,, P15. 3 billion; Department of Agrarian Reform, P14,8 billion; Department of Health, P10.4 billion; Department of Transportation and Communications, P9.7 billion; Judiciary, P7.8 billion, and Department of Finance, P6.8 billion.

Andaya said that despite the crippling parameters of the budget that had been submitted to Congress, such as the high debt service and a large payroll, there were still expenditures that would improve human capital, boost productivity, provide social services, and guarantee peace.

The proposed budget also provides P1 billion for the hiring of an additional 10,000 teachers and P3 billion for the construction of new classrooms.

The pension and gratuity fund of public servants will rise by P4.5 billion, while the housing budget will be increased by P1 billion to P2.7 billion, including P1.6 billion for community housing.

The budget also allocated P4.5 billion to the Commission on Elections to ensure honest elections next year.

Andaya said that despite the tight budget, construction works will continue on 30,509 km of roads nationwide. A total of P200 million will be used for tourism promotions.

In crafting the budget for the country's 82 million population, Andaya said the greatest challenge faced by congressmen was the government's declining revenues.

Due to the lower projected GDP growth rate and the uncertain status of new tax measures, Andaya said the government expects revenues to reach only P656.9 billion.

The government projects the GDP to grow by 4.9 to 5.8 percent in 2004 but the committee forecast was only 4.2 percent.

# Last of 23 seamen is home

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday welcomed home Nicasio Dagsa, the last of the 23 seamen who were freed from three years in jail in the United Arab Emirates.

Dagsa arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at noon. He was met by his mother Fortunata and other family members.

"We promised them (the Dagsas) that we would bring him back as soon as possible. Nicasio's homecoming is a fulfillment of that vow," Arroyo, who raised most of the funds for the release of the seamen, told reporters.

Dagsa said he thought he would never see the Philippines again, especially after he was left behind because he was allegedly involved in another case in the UAE. His 22 colleagues arrived on Oct. 8.

"We thank the First Gentleman and all those who helped my son to return so that our family would be complete this Christmas," Fortunata Dagsa said.

Amable Aguiluz V, special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council, said Dagsa's release was due to the intercession of UAE President Sheik Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan.

The UAE President had also ordered the release of the other seamen after the Philippine government entered into a monetary settlement with the complainants.

The seamen had been duped by their employers into signing bank loans. Unable to pay the huge debt, they were held at the Al-Mamoorah prison in Ras al Khaimah, UAE, for almost three years.

Arroyo launched a fund-raising drive that raised P7.5 million of the P9-million fee needed to buy the seamen's release. Aguiluz contributed the remaining P1.5 million. *Jerome Aning*

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*See malls for activity schedules

Globe MAGIC 89.9

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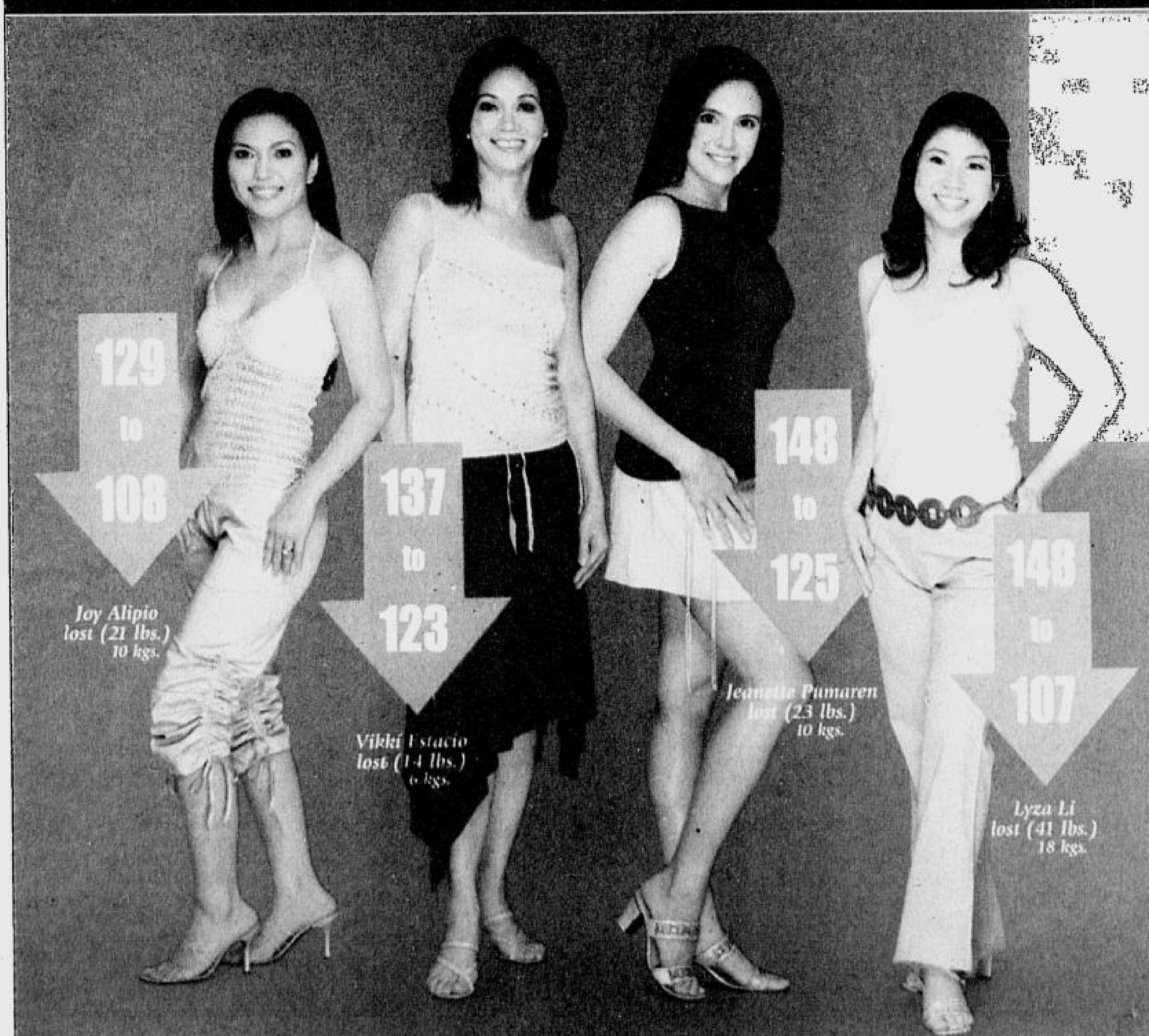
129 to 108
Joy Alipio lost (21 lbs.) 10 kgs.
137 to 123
Vikki Estacio lost (14 lbs.) 6 kgs.
148 to 125
Jeannette Pumaren lost (23 lbs.) 10 kgs.
148 to 107
Lyza Li lost (41 lbs.) 18 kgs.

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# Archbishop nixes Church support for GMA in 2004

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo apparently should not expect any support from the Catholic Church in her election bid in 2004.

The incoming president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday warned bishops and priests not to engage in partisan politics after President Macapagal declared last week that she would be running next year after all.

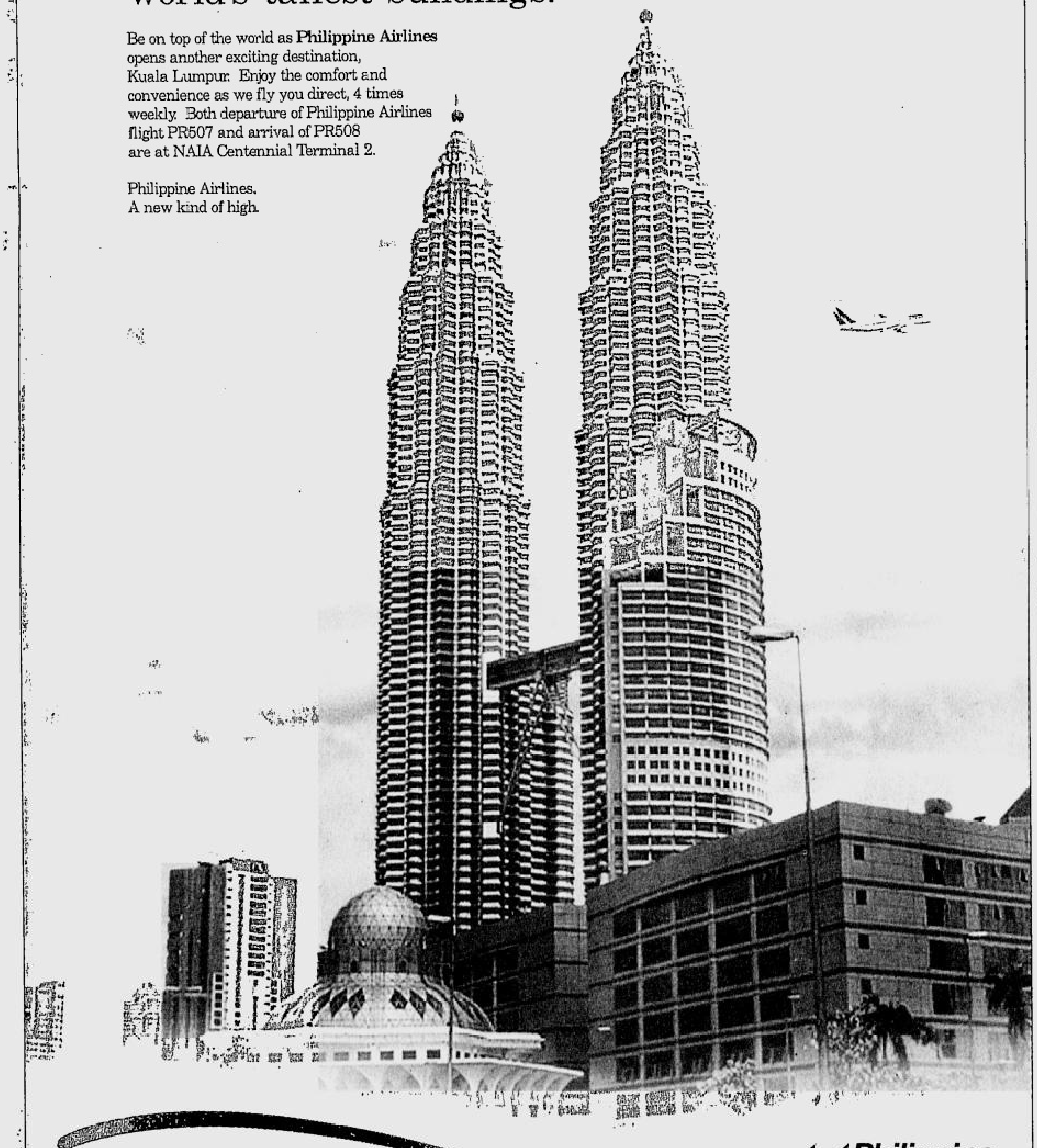
In a pastoral letter, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said the President's "use of loaded religious language" in her Oct. 4 announcement was tantamount to an invitation to all religious sects to respond to her call for healing and reconciliation in the country.

He said the Catholic clergy should be careful with their words and actions supporting the same causes because the people might think they are backing Ms Macapagal's presidential bid.

"Even if they stick only to the healing and reconciliation processes, whatever they do will be misconstrued as support for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her political plans," Capalla said.

He said the response of the Catholic clergy to this call for national healing and reconciliation was "limited by Church law which prohibits them from engaging in partisan politics."

He said priests could find ways to teach their parishioners about justice and social change based on the Church's teachings.



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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 14. 2003
28th Week in Ordinary Time

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Reading: | Rom 1;16-25 |
| Gospel: | Lk 11:37-41 |

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

**Commentary**

*"So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil." One television program I watch with gusto is The Pretender. It is about a man who can pretend to be someone else in order to solve a crime. He could be a medical doctor, an engineer, a military or police, or whatever the identity that is needed to solve a crime. This pretender is so good and makes his pretensions for a good cause. In the gospel today, Jesus condemns pharisaic pretensions or hypocrisy. They try hard to project a holy image but in reality they are sinners and evil men. What is outside does not coincide with what is inside. The image of a tomb is appropriate: whitewashed outside but inside full of dead man's bones. The starting point for any meaningful change for the better is to accept one's actual state of shortcomings. Without this, any change is only sugar coating and it is only for a show.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Withdrawal of appeal by accused—A person accused and convicted of an offense may withdraw his appeal not only because he is guilty as charged. There could be other reasons. It could be due to his prior erroneous perception of the applicable provision of law, or of the decision itself. He may feel that to seek a pardon might be the better and faster remedy. Regardless of his reasons, in our view, he is within his rights to seek the withdrawal of his appeal. This option should not be closed to herein accused-appellant except for clearly important substantial reasons of law and policy. Appellant in withdrawing his appeal has accepted and recognized that the trial court's judgment of conviction and his sentence thereunder is conclusive upon him. He will remain in custody of the law and will continue to serve the sentence imposed by the lower court as the final verdict. His action should also be viewed as showing full respect for the ultimate authority of this court, an essential element for an effective criminal justice system under the rule of law in a democratic society. His exercise of the option to withdraw appeal before the case is submitted for this court's decision, but fully cognizant of its legal consequences at this stage of the case, not only saves the court precious time and resources. It also opens soonest the path for the reformation of the contrite offender, pursuant to the ideal of a just and compassionate society envisioned in our fundamental law. Considering the particular circumstances of this case, this court is not without justifiable reasons to act favorably on his motion. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Paradeza, G.R. No. 144590, February 7, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

# Lea to sing 'non-political, positive' songs for Bush

From page A1

by the Manila Philharmonic Strings. She is expected to arrive in Manila on Oct. 16 from Los Angeles, California, where she is currently based.

## Fiesta setting

His aides have asked that the world's most powerful man be served 7-Up instead of wine or alcohol, according to the limited information released by Malacañang.

Office of the President Assistant Secretary Isabel de Leon said the aides did not indicate special dietary requirements, and that the state dinner menu would consist mostly of seafood.

To better showcase Filipino hospitality, De Leon said, the event will have a barrio fiesta setting. "Fiesta" music will be played by the world-famous Pangkat Kawayan, and bamboo-and-nipa kiosks to be erected on the Palace grounds will serve traditional snacks, like *puto bumbong* and *bibingka* (rice cakes). *(See story on Page A1)*

The Palace itself will be decorated by in-house florists, "only more beautifully than usual," De Leon said, and Toni Parsons will do the Ceremonial Hall. The barrio fiesta setup is being executed by Antonio Garica's Mabolo Flower Shop.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said De Leon had been instructed to disclose some details of the preparations to debunk speculations that these entailed a lot of expense.

De Leon stressed that old pieces of furniture were just moved around to achieve a new look, and that nothing else was bought. Plants had been borrowed from the Orchidarium and would be returned after the visit, she said.

In short, De Leon maintained, the Palace facelift was merely a "spring cleaning," and not just for the Bush visit.

For instance, she noted, the repainting of Kalayaan Hall was really part of the annual sprucing up included in Malacañang's current budget.

That said, she announced that preparations specifically undertaken for Saturday's event were now in the homestretch.

## Maximum convenience

These include work on the special accommodations. Instead of a five-star hotel, the building formerly known as Premier Guesthouse—just a few paces from the main Palace where the First Family resides—will be home for "Dubya" and US First Lady Laura Bush during their brief visit.

Only a garden planted to century-old trees and boasting an old fountain separates the two buildings. The paint has been stripped off the fountain, exposing its original marble finish with female figures sculpted by Guillermo Tolentino, who also made the Andres Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City.

On "Bush Day," the whole garden will be decked with dancing lights.

The guesthouse, known for its dramatic high ceilings, grand chandeliers and draperies, is where President and Mrs. Bush will freshen up upon arrival, and rest between events. It is also where their official party, which includes US National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice, will stay.

Known as former President Joseph Estrada's official residence, it became controversial for its renovation and refurbishing, said to have cost about P95 million. When Estrada was ousted during Edsa People Power 2, President Macapagal-Arroyo shunned the guesthouse altogether.

The building became the office of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, who has been asked to vacate it for the duration of the Bush visit.

Manuel Luis Quezon III, overall in charge of Malacañang's historical restoration, said the guesthouse became Bonifacio Hall via a presidential proclamation on August. It was named after the hero of the masses, Quezon explained, because of its "plebeian origins." He said the building served as servants' quarters from the Spanish times until the term of Ferdinand Marcos.

Weeks before Bush's arrival, the guesthouse was declared off-limits, with US Secret Service agents practically taking over the facility and banning journalists.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said Malacañang officials did not want to take security risks by talking about Palace improvements.

But a source from the Malacañang Internal House Affairs Office revealed a few details: The king-size bed that the Estradas had used were brought back to the guesthouse, in case the Bushes wanted to take a nap during a two-hour break.

"But not the bedsheets," the source immediately added.

## Would he?

And now, a question on the minds of many: Does Malacañang expect the visiting leader of the free world to endorse Ms Macapagal's presidential bid?

"It is not proper for a visitor or a foreign head of state to meddle in our purely internal affairs," Bunye said. "(Besides) we don't need an endorsement from any other party."

In a statement, Bunye also pointed out that the relationship between the Philippines and the United States was no longer one of colonizer and colony.

He said the state visit would strengthen this "strategic relationship," particularly in the areas of economy and security.

Upon reaching Malacañang on Saturday, Bush and his official party will be given arrival honors at the grounds of the Kalayaan Hall, where the Marcoses appeared during their last days there in 1986.

A covered walkway from Kalayaan to the main Palace has been built, and is now adorned with plants and decorative stones. The Kalayaan grounds, the Palace driveways and the path leading to the guesthouse, will be covered with red carpets, echoing the brand-new one in the hallway leading to the Ceremonial Hall, with the seal of the President of the Philippines.

Flags are now being installed on poles throughout the long outer fence. And right outside, the landscape has also changed: streets dotted with squatter shanties and old, run-down houses are now lined with crisp, white-painted GI sheets.

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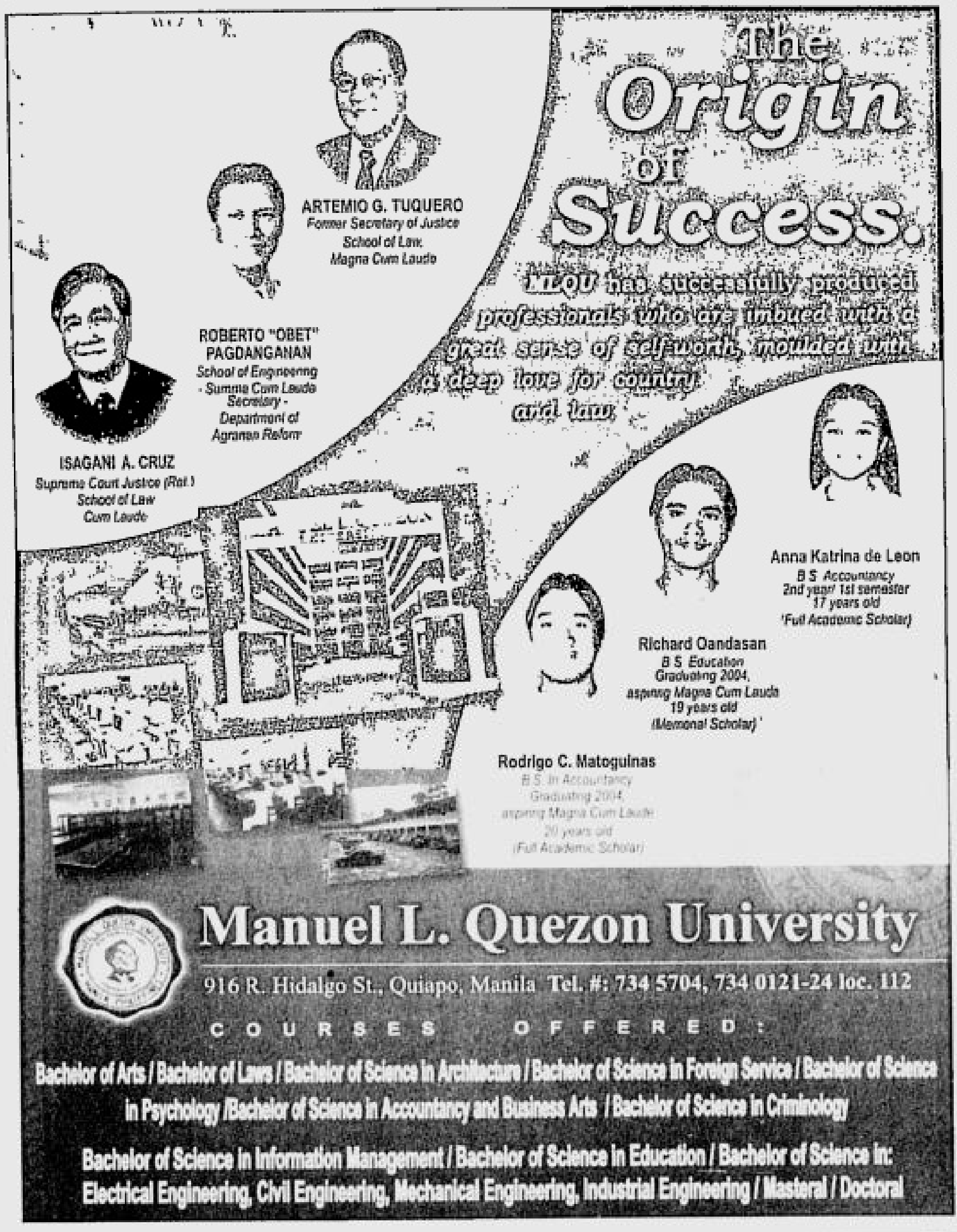
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B S Education
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## Supreme Court of the Philippines
## Judicial and Bar Council
## Manila

The following are the applicants for nomination for two (2) positions of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** vacated by Justices Teodoro P. Regino and Candido V. Rivera:

1. Abad Santos, Salvador S.
2. Abarintos, Pampio A.
3. Acosta, Ernesto D.
4. Andrade, Amalia Resterio
5. Annang, Raymundo Z.
6. Aquino, Jerazene Z.
7. Atienza, Mario Arsenio A.
8. Autea, Arthur P.
9. Ayson, Ruben C.
10. Barinaga, Sylvia Luczon
11. Besana, Lolita Contreras
12. Cabado, Rodolfo V.
13. Catli, Noli T.
14. Correa, Librado S.
15. Cruz, Stephen C.
16. Cueva, Eulogia Makabenta
17. Dalisay, Moises D. Jr.
18. Daway, Reynaldo B.
19. De Castro, Antonio I.
20. Dela Peña, Jesus S.
21. Dimaano, Rodolfo B.
22. Erum, Bernardita Gabitan
23. Eugenio, Antonio M. Jr.
24. Europa, Virginia Hofileña
25. Fernandez, Rumoldo R.
26. Flores, Teresita Dy-Liacco
27. Floro, Florentino V. Jr.
28. Francisco, Emma Carino
29. Francisco, Raymundo T.
30. Fruelda, Carmelita Gutierrez
31. Gacutan, Angelita Alberto
32. Ganay, Clifton U.
33. Gatmaytan, Nicanor B. Jr.
34. Genilo, Lita Tolentino
35. Grulla, Cielito Noriega
36. Hernandez, Jose R.
37. Herrera, Oscar C. Jr.
38. Ibrahim, Amer R.
39. Insigne, Eugenio A.
40. Ismael, Harun B.
41. Lagman, Aurora Santiago
42. Lantion, Jane Aurora Catabian
43. Lanzanas, Enrico A.
44. Laqui, Hilario L.
45. Laurea, Emmanuel D.
46. Lontok, Arcangelita Romilla
47. Lopez, Romulo A.
48. Malik, Jacob T.
49. Marcos, Luz Quiñones
50. Mariano, Rebecca Reyes
51. Martinez, Mariano M.
52. Pacatang, Josie S.
53. Padilla, Pricilla Baltazar
54. Peralta, Fernanda Lampas
55. Perello, Norma Cabigon
56. Pizarro, Normandie B.
57. Pornillos, Victoria Villalon
58. Querubin, Perlas Bascos
59. Quiroz, Alex D.
60. Reyes, Amor Aquino
61. Riel, Teodoro T.
62. Roxas, Vicente Q.
63. Rufon, Anastacio C.
64. Salcedo, Zorayda Herradura
65. Son, Raineldo T.
66. Sorongon, Edwin D.
67. Suing, Jose A.
68. Tagle, Lucenito N.
69. Tayag, Arturo G.
70. Tiamson, Paterno G.
71. Veloso, Vicente E.
72. Vestil, Augustine A.
73. Victorio, Manuel D.
74. Vidal Myrna Dimaranan
75. Villasor, Edwin A.
76. Villon, Sesinando D.
77. Yanga, Armando A.
78. Yap, Vicente L.
79. Zamora, Romeo F.

The public may submit any sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants/ recommendees, not later than FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2003, to the:

Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
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Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 552-9512 FAX No. 525-3208

09 October 2003.

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Clerk of Court
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# Thefts greatly hurting IT firms

A WAVE of highway robberies has unnerved the country's electronics sector as it struggles to recover from the 2001 global information technology (IT) slump, industry officials said Monday.

Unknown gunmen have been hijacking trucks bringing electronic products to Manila for shipment abroad, according to Ernie Santiago, executive director of the 204-member Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI).

Some of the stolen products have ended up in the local grey market, while others are bought by "some local distributors or they end up directly overseas," said Arthur Tan, president of Integrated Microelectronics Inc., a leading manufacturing subcontractor.

Santiago told a press briefing that industry officials signed an agreement with police last month to deal with the hijackings, which have been occurring all over the Philippines.

The armed robberies were a "serious problem" for local semiconductor companies which produce a wide range of products ranging from chips to radar communication equipment, said Danilo Lachica, president of First Sumiden Circuits Inc.

Since the industry signed the agreement with the police "there have been some improvements but we're not quite there yet," Lachica said.

Tan cited an unnamed foreign company that has "decided not to produce its new generation of products in the Philippines because they've been victimized two or three times." *AFP*

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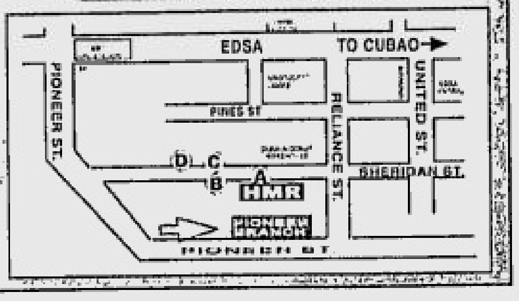

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# Judges, court personnel score Osmeña ad

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUDGES and court employees yesterday scored Sen. John Osmeña for the full-page ad he put out in major newspapers explaining the delay in the approval of the bill increasing their allowances.

The Philippine Judges Association (PJA) and the Philippine Confederation of Court Employees Associations (Philconcea) said Osmeña was only trying to drive a wedge between the judges and the court employees.

"We think he is trying to have us fight each other. *Pinagsasabong kami*," said Judge Marino de la Cruz, PJA president, in a press conference.

## 'Selfish'

In the ad, Osmeña said the judges were "being selfish in not espousing the cause" of the court employees who are slated to receive smaller increases.

But Philconcea chair Ma. Celia Flores said that under the proposed bill, court employees would also get increases although these would not be "fixed" salary hikes.

Flores said if the judges were really selfish, they would have settled years ago for a previous form of the bill that mandated increases only for magistrates.

But the judges did not; instead they also lobbied for increased benefits for court employees, she said.

Under the proposed bill, the increase in the allowances of judges would occur over four years—at 25 percent each year.

In the ad, Osmeña said he was for returning the bill to the bicameral conference committee in order to make some changes that would conform to the law. He blamed other senators for blocking this because of their pride.

## Revisions

Specifically, he said amendments to the bill should be made in order to give court employees the same allowances as judges; to enforce the separation of the branches of government by not allowing court funds to come from local government units, and to have the funds come from the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF).

The PJA and Philconcea, however, reiterated that Osmeña was to blame for the continued delay in the bill's approval.

De la Cruz noted that Osmeña did not attend the last two meetings of the bicameral committee threshing out the particulars of the bill.

Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., president of the Manila RTC Judges Association, said Osmeña's contention that the increases should come from the JDF was untenable.

He said the JDF is dependent on collected court fees. Should collections fall short of targets, the judiciary would have nowhere else to get the funds, he said.

"*Aabunuhan ba ni* Senator Osmeña? Will he give us the money he spent for those ads?" Eugenio said.

Eugenio said the bill has languished in Congress for years—it was initially intended to exempt members of the judiciary from the salary standardization law—but Osmeña had continued to block it.

Pasay City Judge Vicente Yap scored Osmeña for saying the bill should prevent judges from receiving allowances from local governments.

Yap said if Osmeña really wanted the provision in the law, he should move instead for the amendment of the Local Government Code.

The judges noted that in the P865-billion proposed national budget for 2004, the judiciary would get only P7.8 billion, or a measly 0.9 percent of the entire budget.

They said this was smaller than the allocations given to some agencies in the executive department.

Despite Osmeña's move to block the bill, the judges said they expect Congress to pass the bill within the month.

Osmeña, in the ad, said his suggestion to return the bill to the bicameral conference committee for revision would only take a few days.

"A few days' delay is a small price to pay for securing a justly deserved compensation increase for all court personnel and the strengthening of the judiciary and freeing it from the corrupting influence of unscrupulous government officials," Osmeña said.

Judges and court employees went on mass leave last week to lobby for the bill and protest its delay.

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Mr. Wong Kam On, a *British National* (Overseas), has lost his ALIEN CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION with Serial No. E-193753 issued in his favor by the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration on January 3, 2001.

This notice is being made in connection with Mr. On's application for the issuance of a duplicate original copy of his aforesaid lost ACR.

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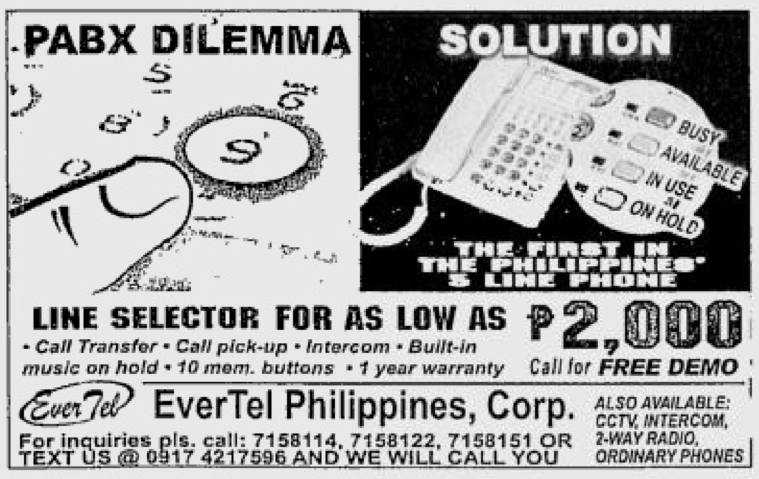

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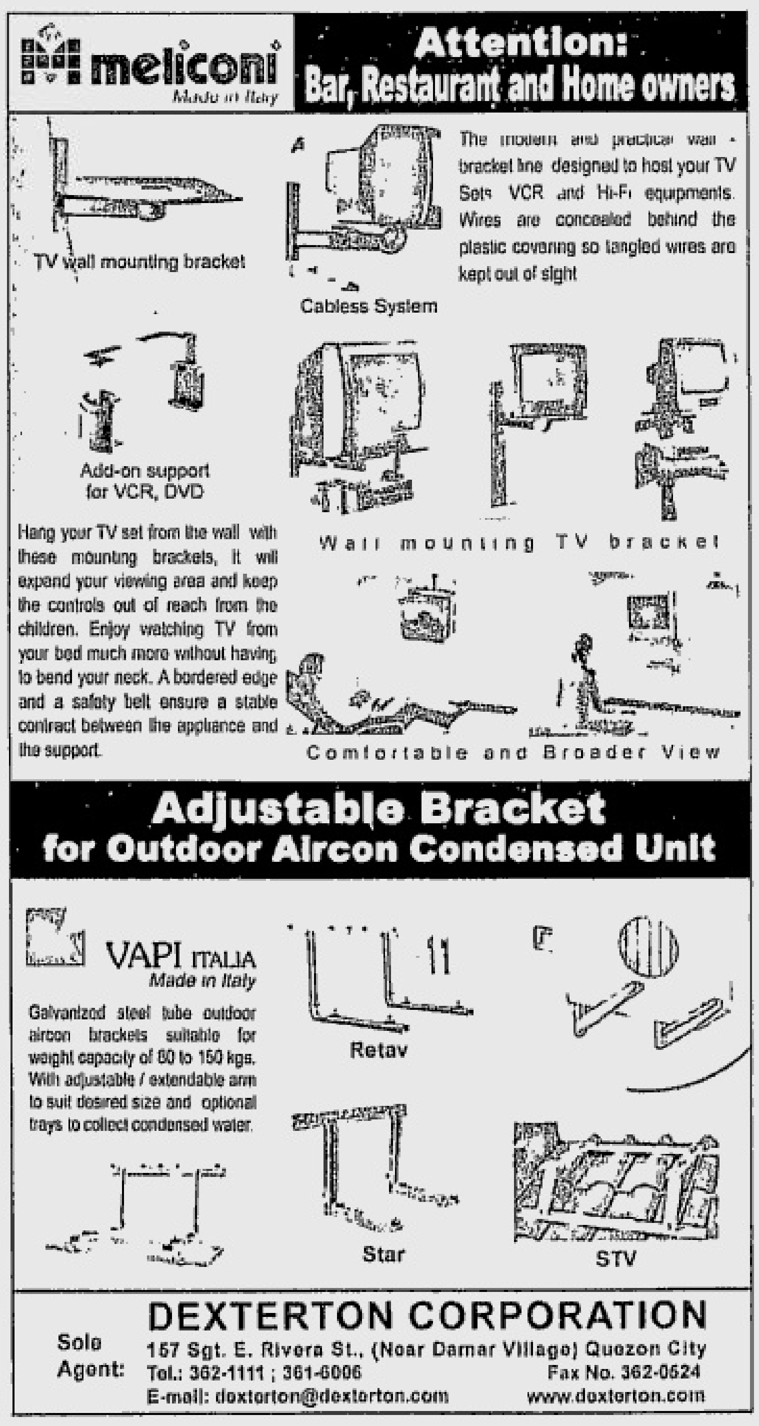

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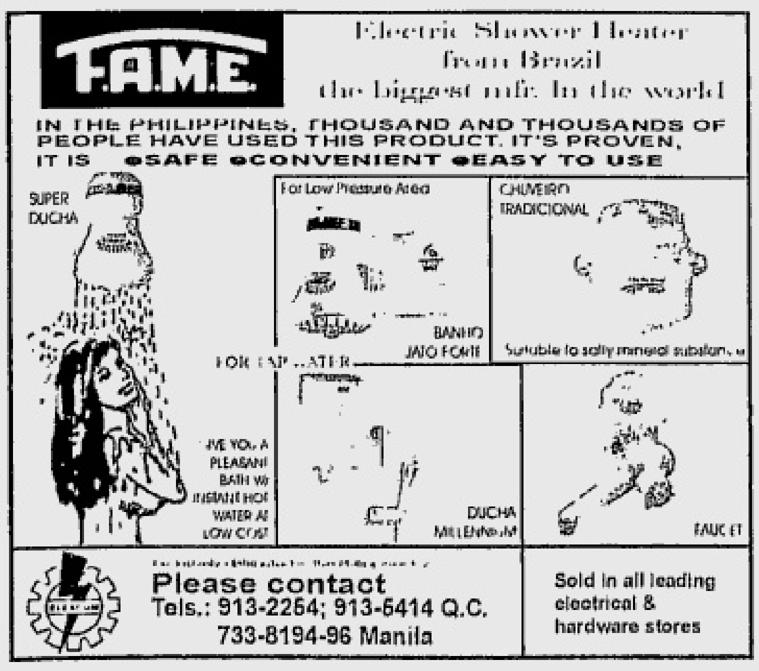

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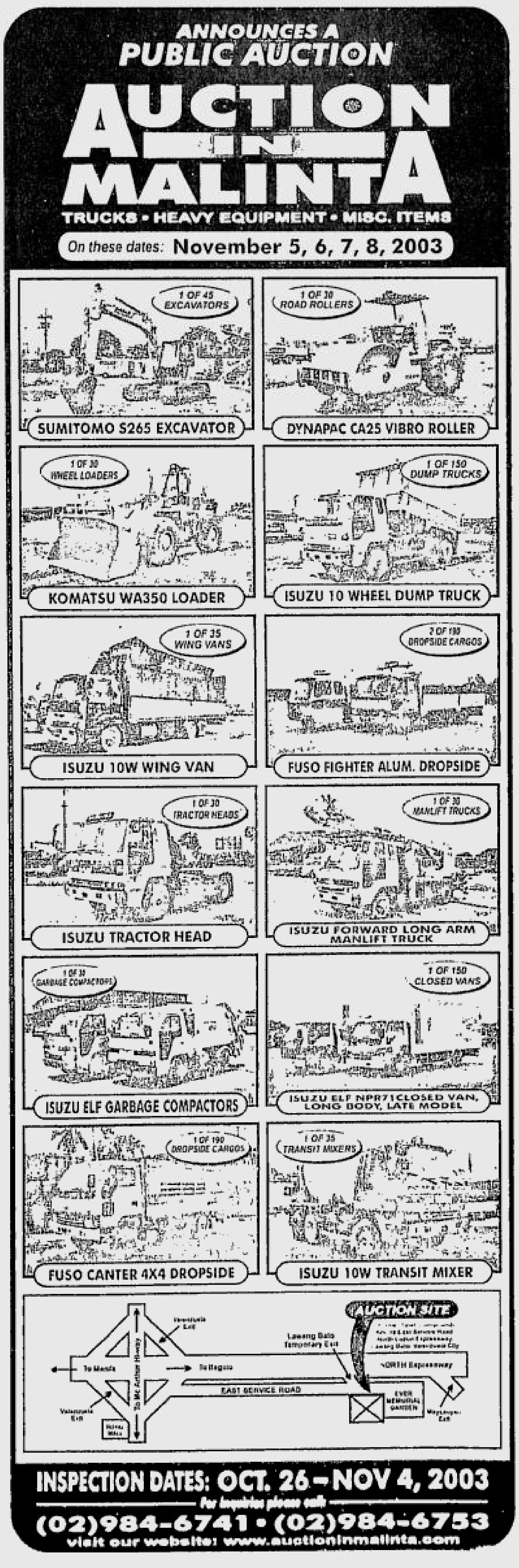

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# Pidal probers to junk Joker ruling, says Nene

From page A1

"Senator Arroyo's ruling is not final. It will be subjected to voting ... and he would be (overruled)," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said he had already drafted a memorandum on the issue, which, he said, would be eventually adopted by members of the joint committee.

In his draft ruling, Senator Arroyo said that in the absence of hard proof that the Pidal accounts were illegally funded, "Ignacio Arroyo cannot be compelled to reveal anything more about the bank account(s)."

Ignacio says he is the owner of the Jose Pidal accounts, which opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson claims have been used by the First Gentleman to hide millions of pesos in campaign contribution to his wife. Lacson insists that the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo is Jose Pidal.

Senator Arroyo drafted the ruling as chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, the lead committee tasked with investigating the Jose Pidal controversy, which was sparked by Lacson's exposé.

Pimentel said the chair of the blue ribbon committee "misappreciated the facts of the case and misplaced the constitutional and legal provisions pertinent to the right to privacy."

Although such right exists in the Constitution, it cannot be invoked by Ignacio "under the circumstances," according to Pimentel.

In the first place, the controversy is "a public issue long before (Ignacio) embraced it," he said. "Nobody forced him to embrace it. But when he decided to do so, he was in effect waiving his right to privacy."

Pimentel said the Senate would not have "furthered into the private affairs if he (Ignacio) did not voluntarily (claim that he is Jose Pidal)."

## Just a recommendation

Opposition Senators Edgardo Angara and John Osmeña also discredited the draft ruling.

"Our agreement is that the entire committee will make the recommendation. That is only a recommendation of the chair. That's not the final ruling," Angara said.

He explained that before the ruling could be adopted, "it must pass through the scrutiny of the members of the three committees."

He said Ignacio was not yet off the hook because "the issue of privacy is not yet finally decided."

Angara said he was "inclined to disagree" with Senator Arroyo's ruling, but preferred not to discuss his objections just yet.

He said it was inappropriate for Senator Arroyo to have leaked a copy of the draft to the media before submitting it to the joint committee.

"That was irregular. But we will not take him to task for it. We are forgiving him for little things," Angara said.

Osmeña said the Constitution guaranteed the right to privacy only on matters of communication.

Upholding Ignacio's invocation of his right to privacy will set a "dangerous" precedent which "is going to be the refuge of corrupt government officials," Osmeña said.

"The right to *kurakot* (be corrupt), and not have to answer for your *kurakot*" would be legalized should the Senate support the Arroyo ruling, he said.

Osmeña said the Senate had rules to deal with the matter. "The lead committee ... (can come up with a report but it is only) a report of the lead committee. But if the secondary committees would not agree (to it), then it can submit their dissenting reports."

Pimentel called on Senator Arroyo to revisit the 14-page memorandum he submitted to him on Sept. 10. He pushed for the continuation of the Senate inquiry, "and come up with recommendations in aid of legislation after the inquiry is ended."

Pimentel maintained that Ignacio had no right to invoke his right to privacy to validly refuse to answer the questions raised by senators in the inquiry.

What should have been invoked, he said, was the right against self-incrimination. "Had he invoked the right against self-incrimination, then, it is probable that the senators would have stopped their questioning."

For indeed, he said, any person should never be compelled to testify against himself.

## Martyrs, saints

"That would not only be unconstitutional. It would also be cruel and barbaric and against the ordinary grain of human inclinations. The only exceptions, probably, are martyrs and saints who would not mind speaking out the truth even at the expense of their very lives."

The problem is that Ignacio is no martyr and his brother, Mike, is certainly no saint, according to Pimentel.

He then stated the heart of his legal treatise—Ignacio's reliance on the right to privacy has no leg to stand on.

"To allow him to do so would render inutile the functions of the Senate, nay, all congressional committees to ferret out the truth on matters of public interest that are brought up to the legislature for proper redress or appropriate action," he said.

Pimentel said Ignacio had forfeited his right to privacy when he owned publicly that the Pidal accounts were his as attested to by a special power of attorney he had executed. "(This) removed whatever mantle of protection that the so-called right to privacy might have extended to him."

Further, he noted that by publicly admitting that he was Jose Pidal, Ignacio forfeited the right to refuse to provide forthright answers in the Senate inquiry.

# Lacson accuses GMA of using PCSO funds

From page A1

her announcement that she would stand for election in May.

"*Pera para sa mahihirap, kinurakot pa!* Mrs. President, you have violated the charter of the PCSO," the senator said in his third privilege speech in as many months titled "*Huwag Matakot,* Stop *Kurakot!* Malacañang: *Bagong* Record *sa Kurakot.*"

Lacson ended his exposé on the alleged money laundering activities of the First Gentleman by accusing the President of dipping her fingers into the PCSO coffers.

Malacañang and the First Gentleman dismissed Lacson's latest charges as a rehash of unsubstantiated ones.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Lacson's allegation that Jimenez had given P38 million to the President was not only "hearsay but a brazen lie."

Bunye said the PCSO denied that the request for funds was never released.

## Laughing

The First Gentleman was said to be laughing while watching the third installment of Lacson's exposé, according to his lawyer Jesus Santos.

Santos told reporters at the LTA Building in Makati that he had *merienda* with Arroyo while they were watching the live telecast of Lacson's speech.

"He was laughing and laughing because these are all lies and fabricated evidence that cannot be explained to the public. It's rehashed, like a flashback," Santos said.

Lacson said the President approved the release of P2.87 million from the PCSO to the Gawin Natin-Lakas Pinoy for its feeding project. The money did not go to the feeding program as it went to the campaign posters for Ms Macapagal, he said.

"Mrs. President, you keep asking, 'Where's the corruption? What government funds were used?' Well, Mrs. President, do you remember this?" he asked, as pointed at the "Run, Gloria, Run" posters sponsored by the Gawin Natin-Lakas Pinoy.

How could the group get funding for the expensive posters, he asked.

## Motorcade

The same group was also able to get an ambulance and medical staff from the PCSO, the senator said. The ambulance was used for a motorcade, he said.

"For a motorcade! Is this what the PCSO is for? Is the election campaign of President Arroyo a charity case?" he asked.

Lacson said the group was able to request funding from the PCSO because of Raul Nestor Ancheta, an incorporator of the Gawin Natin-Lakas Pinoy and chief of staff of PCSO General Manager Rosario Uriarte.

SEN. Panfilo Lacson delivers Part 3 of his "Incredible Hulk" series.

Uriarte has been with the President since Ms Macapagal was with the Department of Trade and Industry, according to Lacson. Uriarte served as consultant of Ms Macapagal when she became senator and then vice president.

Uriarte later served as appointment secretary of Ms Macapagal when she became President, and as senior deputy administrator of the Cagayan Economic Zone.

"The paper trail ends in Malacañang. Mrs. President, why are public funds being used for your campaign this early? Where are the originals?" Lacson said.

"But unlike the President, the people are not blind, deaf or dumb," Lacson said in Chapter Three of his "Incredible Hulk" series of privilege speeches. "Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo is Jose Pidal. Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo, and you, are involved in corruption."

## Mark Jimenez

Lacson said the President also knew about the Jose Pidal account of her husband. This was because, he said, the President received campaign contributions from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in 1998 and some of the money went to the account.

He said he went to Miami, Florida, to see Jimenez in September. "Mr. Jimenez holds the secrets that give the Arroyo couple sleepless nights," the opposition senator said.

He said Jimenez "personally confirmed before me and a lawyer" that he gave six checks amounting to P38 million to the First Gentleman and the President herself in the Forbes Park residence of the First Couple. The money was intended for the KGMA Foundation, one of the foundations of Ms Macapagal.

But one of the checks amounting to P5 million found its way to the bank account of Jose Pidal at Union Bank, according to Lacson. He said the check was deposited in Union Bank Account No. 00-073-001483-6.

Lacson said he would reveal, in "due time," the deposition he got from Jimenez as well as the checks that the former Manila congressman had given to the First Couple.

In a Powerpoint presentation, Lacson presented to the Senate 23 pieces of original and photocopied documents that make up his evidence against the First Gentleman whom he earlier accused of keeping secret bank accounts containing P260 million in laundered money.

## Udong Mahusay

Lacson said he got the pieces of evidence from Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, the senator's erstwhile star witness and messenger of the First Gentleman in his office at the LTA building on Perea Street in Makati. Mahusay has re-joined the camp of the First Gentleman.

Among the documents that Mahusay had given Lacson were the First Gentleman's personal appointments book, checks, bank statements, investment accounts, photos, list of contributors, property titles and personal letters.

Lacson said most of these were originals and proved that the President's husband:

- Maintained secret bank accounts in the name of Jose Pidal.
- Used as dummies Vicky Toh, Thomas Toh and Kelvin Tan.
- Maintained a secret US dollar account in Morgan Stanley in the name of Pidal.
- Maintained in his name a US dollar account in the same investment house and share Pidal's advisor Ronald Gin.
- Underdeclared contributions for the 1998 election of Ms Macapagal to the vice presidency.
- Did not declare and pay taxes on the unspent contributions for the election.
- Did not declare with the President their acquisition of a 60,758- square-meter prime property in Quezon City.
- Diverted P5 million into his Pidal account from Jimenez's P8 million contribution intended for the KGMA Foundation.

## Evidence

Lacson presented the 23 pieces of evidence to prove his allegations against the First Gentleman.

- The affidavit of Mahusay.
- List of contributors and the amount solicited totaling P324 million.
- Statement of election contributions and expenditures to prove that Arroyo did not fully declare the contributions received and did not pay taxes on the balance the First Couple kept as income.
- A Union Bank check to prove that Arroyo operates a secret account under the name of Pidal, which he used to launder the campaign contributions.
- A BPI-Family Bank check to prove that a Pidal account exists in the bank for his other secret transactions.
- A bank statement from Morgan Stanley to prove that an account in the name of Pidal exists and that Pidal shares the same address and financial advisor as Arroyo.
- A bank statement from Morgan Stanley in the name of Arroyo to prove that he and Pidal share the same financial advisor and address.
- The KGMA identification card with the signature of Arroyo to prove that his signature and that of Pidal came from one hand.
- A bank statement from Union Bank in the name of Kelvin Tan c/o Vicky Toh, 8th Floor, LTA Bldg., to prove the charge that Kelvin Tan is an accomplice in the money laundering activities.
- A bank statement from International Exchange Bank in the name of Kelvin Tan, c/o 8th Floor, LTA Bldg., to prove the existence of a second bank account used in the money laundering operation.
- An International Exchange Bank check of Kelvin Tan in the amount of P2 million, pay to cash, to prove further that Arroyo is into money laundering.
- Another International Exchange Bank check of Kelvin Tan in the amount of P8 million, pay to cash.
- Yet another International Exchange Bank check of Kelvin Tan in the amount of P10 million, pay to cash.
- The three checks paid to cash amounting to P20 million to prove that they were encashed within 24 hours by Tony Labrador, a trusted employee of Arroyo.
- A copy of a Philippine Airlines manifest (PR 318) to prove that Labrador enjoys the trust of Arroyo.
- A Union Bank bank statement to prove that Thomas Toh Jr., of 8th Floor, LTA Bldg., is one of the money launderers of Arroyo.
- A Union Bank bank statement to prove that Victoria Toh plays a major role in the money laundering activities of Arroyo.
- Articles of incorporation to prove that Arroyo uses the Tohs and the Tans extensively in his financial and laundering operations and that Arroyo did not declare this asset in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- The Transfer Certificate of Title of a valuable piece of property to prove that Arroyo and the President have undeclared properties.
- A photo of Arroyo and Vicky Toh to prove that they are known to each other.
- A letter of Vicky Toh to Arroyo to prove that Kelvin Tan is not the successful businessman he claims to be.
- A letter of Vicky Toh to Arroyo to prove that she fills in the blanks of the pre-signed checks of Kelvin Tan for Arroyo.
- The testimony of Jimenez to prove that money intended for the KGMA Foundation ended up in the private account of Pidal.

He also disclosed that the Government Service Insurance System, which he noted had no money for the benefits of members, was able to release P500,000 for a golf tournament of Arroyo.

In Bacolod City, Ignacio Arroyo, younger brother of the First Gentleman, said Lacson was obsessed with the presidency. "That is why he has to recycle his lies."

He maintained that he was the owner of the Jose Pidal account. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa in Manila and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# 'We walked out casually as if we were policemen'

From page A1

"At first, Amor hesitated by telling Edris that 'You are not allowed to have a cellular phone,' but Edris explained that he was becoming bored and he needed the unit to communicate with his family and relatives. Besides, (Edris reportedly said) 'Nobody would know.'"

To convince the cook to buy him a phone, Edris allegedly gave her P500.

The next day, Lasal said, Amor returned with a Nokia 3210.

Lasal said Edris immediately dialed the number of Khadaffy Janjalani's Christian wife, who lives in Metro Manila.

Lasal said Janjalani's wife, whom he did not identify, had only one word for them, and that was to be careful.

## Escape plan

Al-Ghozi then plotted the escape plan. He wanted to hire a van to pick them up inside Camp Crame.

At this time, Lasal said, Bali begged off from joining the escape plan because he said he had several relatives in Bicutan.

Lasal said Al-Ghozi immediately started monitoring the movement and schedule of the guards and personnel of the Philippine National Police's Intelligence Group (IG) by sneaking out of their cell.

He was able to do this because the padlock could be easily opened even without a key, Lasal explained.

On July 13, the Indonesian made an announcement: "We will escape tomorrow morning."

At around 2 a.m. the next day, Lasal said he and Al-Ghozi were already awake.

He said the Indonesian had inspected the lock and found that it could still be easily opened as in the past.

Al-Ghozi went out of the cell and saw that a lone guard was asleep, he said. It was then that Lasal decided to rouse Edris.

A few moments later, Lasal said Al-Ghozi went back to the cell and proceeded to shave his beard. Then Al-Ghozi told them it was time to go.

## Baseball caps

Lasal said he and Al-Ghozi were wearing baseball caps when they walked out of the jail.

On their way out, he recalled, he did not notice anything out of the ordinary with Edris and Al-Ghozi. He said the two walked as if it was the most natural thing to be out of detention.

"But I was very nervous, especially when we met some trainees. I was very uneasy when some of them even greeted us," Lasal narrated.

At the guard post, Lasal said a policeman was writing something and did not notice them.

The three then walked toward the gate where two SAF members armed with M-16 rifles stood guard.

"One of them nodded at me, apparently mistaking me for a policeman," he said.

At around 3:30 a.m., Lasal said, they were out of the Santolan (Bonnie Serrano) gate. From there, they took a taxi and proceeded to a bus terminal in Cubao, to take a bus for Bicol.

While inside the taxi, Lasal said, Al-Ghozi counted his money, amounting to a total of P11,500. He said the Indonesian bomb expert then gave him and Edris P2,500 each.

"He said if anything happens, we have money to spend."

## To Bicol

By 4:20 a.m., Lasal said, they were at the Cubao terminal. They immediately boarded a bus for Naga City and arrived there at around 2 p.m.

He said they ate lunch in Naga and then took a mini-van for Sorsogon.

Upon reaching the Sorsogon terminal, they took a tricycle and asked the driver to bring them to a mosque.

He said they were brought to a Maranao community.

"An ustadz (preacher) greeted us although he was visibly curious. He asked us where did we come from, what were our names and what we were doing in Sorsogon," Lasal said.

He said he could not recall what names Al-Ghozi and Edris assumed but all of them gave a Christian name. Lasal said he introduced himself as Edgar.

"The ustadz got more confused when we told him we came from different provinces. He was asking us why we were together," Lasal said.

Edris told the ustadz he was just visiting some old classmates, while Al-Ghozi pretended to be looking for business prospects.

Lasal said he simply wanted to see Bicol because he basically spent most of his time in Basilan.

Lasal said Al-Ghozi spoke fluent Maranao, the language of the Lanao provinces, Maguindanao and English, and a little of Filipino and Visayan.

The ustadz later asked them to sign a logbook and gave them a room to stay for the night.

Lasal said he and his companions were also fed and were later given P500 each for transportation.

## To Surigao

The next day, Lasal said, the ustadz told them to take the barge and then board a bus to Samar for Surigao.

"I recalled we boarded seven buses and two barges. Then we got on a van. When we reached Surigao, we took another barge for Butuan," Lasal said.

He was very nervous the whole time.

Lasal said he was surprised how calmly Edris and Al-Ghozi behaved. He said Edris even went to a crowded place in Samar to buy a newspaper.

"I was very terrified because our faces were all over the newspapers already. Most passengers were reading the newspapers then. I was afraid we would be caught. But then nobody seemed to have noticed us. I guess luck was on our side during those times," Lasal said.

At a checkpoint at the Butuan port, Lasal said, policemen were inspecting each passenger. "They had our posters," he said.

Edris, whom he acknowledged to be the most daring, did not get out of the van and pretended to be sleeping.

Lasal said he sneaked into a bus and pretended to be asleep as soon as he got in.

Al-Ghozi pretended to be an ordinary passenger, walked past the policemen and got out of the port.

As soon as the van parked near the terminal, Lasal said he immediately got in and saw an excited Edris looking at his face on television.

Lasal said Al-Ghozi hardly smiled during those times. "He was very focused although he would sometimes busy himself with the cellular phone," he said.

While at the terminal, Edris got a call from Janjalani and later from the bandit leader's Christian wife, Lasal said.

During the calls, the Janjalanis were instructing Edris about the possible meeting between the bandit leader and Al-Ghozi.

## MILF connection?

At the time of the calls, Al-Ghozi was busy contacting his alleged friends in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City.

Upon reaching Cagayan de Oro, Lasal said, they were fetched by a Nissan Terrano and were brought to a house owned by a certain Kumander Kiddie, an MILF leader based in the Zamboanga peninsula.

There, he said, they met the MILF leader who had been reported killed in an encounter with the military in Zamboanga Sibugay about two years ago.

Lasal said he and his companions spent three days in Kiddie's house.

"They pampered us because of Al-Ghozi. I was told he financed some of the MILF's operations. He was very respected there," he said.

After three days, Lasal said, they were brought to Lanao del Norte, to the training camp of Salip Aloy Alshree, one of the MILF leaders based in the Zamboanga peninsula. They rode on the same vehicle to Lanao del Norte.

"I was really amazed at how Al-Ghozi was treated there. He was only a visitor. When we were there, he received some calls from Malaysia," Lasal said.

On Aug. 7, Edris was killed while allegedly trying to escape from soldiers belonging to the Task Group Panther in Barangay Bangga-an in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte, along with his MILF guide.

Lasal said only Edris could be blamed for his death. The military had obviously tracked Edris down by monitoring his calls to Basilan.

Lasal said he and Al-Ghozi stayed inside Alshree's camp called Inistar.

# AN APPEAL TO WILLIAM CLAY FORD JR.

# RIGHT A WRONG!

## FRANCISCO MOTOR CORPORATION SPENT MORE THAN P1 BILLION IN 25 YEARS TO DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE MARKET FOR MAZDA ONLY TO BE EASED OUT BY FORD/MAZDA

In a Report to the Rehabilitation Court, RTC Branch 253, Las Pinas, the Receiver alleged that Ford and Mazda had "conspired" to take away the Mazda pick-up and van business from Francisco Motor Corporation (FMC).

Ford/Mazda could not introduce locally the Mazda-derived Ford Ranger pick-up without a "No Objection" letter from FMC, the owner of the registration of Mazda's B-Series pick-up.

In exchange for the "No Objection" letter, Ford/Mazda had committed to:

**allow FMC to continue to assemble and market the next generation Mazda B-Series pick-up;**

**make FMC part owner of the joint venture company that would market the Mazda products locally;**

**continue to supply FMC the parts for its Anfra, jeepney, and truck models; and**

**pay FMC $100 per Mazda unit sold locally.**

## ALL THESE, FORD/MAZDA DID NOT HONOR!

## WORSE, FORD/MAZDA DID NOT GIVE FMC THE PRICE LIST OF MAZDA COMPONENTS FOR 10 MONTHS. THIS ALLOWED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FORD RANGER AHEAD OF FMC'S NEW MAZDA PICK-UP.

As a result, FMC suffered the following:

- Was forced to lay off 1,200 of its trained workforce;
- Was forced to stop the production of its new-generation Anfra AUVs;
- Lost more than P1B invested for the Mazda project;
- Lost the Mazda market it developed over 25 years;
- Lost its network of dealers throughout the country;
- Set back its jeepney export project estimated at $12M a year; and
- Is now under receivership.

**FRANCISCO MOTOR CORPORATION WAS A SUCCESSFUL 100% FILIPINO OWNED COMPANY UNTIL IT FELL VICTIM TO FORD/MAZDA'S UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES.**

**Established in 1947, FMC is among the pioneers of the AUV and maker of the Pope Mobile, Francisco Jeepneys, and Anfra.**

ADVT

# Shootout or rubout?

From page A1

Bush on Saturday.

"We do not consider any connection between the slaying of Al-Ghozi and the Bush visit," he said. "It was a routine operation and it just so happened that it happened before the visit."

Ebdane sounded irritated when asked to respond to speculations that the incident was a rubout.

In Camp Crame, Director Ricardo de Leon, the PNP spokesperson, said the public should stick only to "facts and evidence."

"Our work in the PNP should not be tainted with the color of politics and speculations," added Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, Pacer chief.

According to the reports prepared by Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, head of the directorate for operations, Al-Ghozi and an unidentified companion were in a multicab when members of the Army's 6th Infantry Division and Pacer flagged down their vehicle on the Pigcawayan highway in North Cotabato at around 7:15 p.m.

Instead of pulling over, the two allegedly opened fire, prompting government troops to retaliate.

Al-Ghozi was wounded while his companion escaped "under the cover of darkness and heavy downpour," the report said.

The Indonesian terrorist died before he could reach the Midsayap Diagnostic Center in nearby Midsayap town.

Ebdane said Al-Ghozi died from five bullet wounds, two of them in the chest, one in each arm, and another one in the side of the body.

Seven shots, two of them coming from Al-Ghozi and his companion, were fired during the shootout, the PNP chief said.

Authorities later recovered a .45 cal. automatic from Al-Ghozi, he added.

Three civilians are set to receive P10 million in reward money for providing authorities information that led to the Sunday operation, the PNP chief said.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia dismissed persistent speculation that Al-Ghozi had been arrested earlier and was executed in time for Mr. Bush's visit.

"No, the situation was that he was accosted … It was the result of good intelligence work of the Pacer and the 6th Infantry Division," he said.

## No autopsy

The shootout or rubout debate looks likely to fester, however, after Ebdane said Al-Ghozi's body could not be autopsied and would have to be buried within 24 hours in deference to Islamic tradition.

"Even if he's a criminal," Ebdane said, "we have to give him dignity. (The body) has to be taken care of and turned over to the family."

He did not say whether Al-Ghozi had relatives in the Philippines.

Even though the slain man had been identified as Al-Ghozi as early as 8:30 the other night, the PNP's Scene of Crime Operations group made the formal announcement only yesterday morning, after comparing the man's fingerprints with those of Al-Ghozi's in government files.

Ebdane also said there were two foreign forensics experts on hand in General Santos City, where the body was brought, to conduct examinations.

Dr. Vivencio Jumampo Jr. of the Midsayap Diagnostic Center said he did not know that the person brought to their hospital on Sunday night was Al-Ghozi.

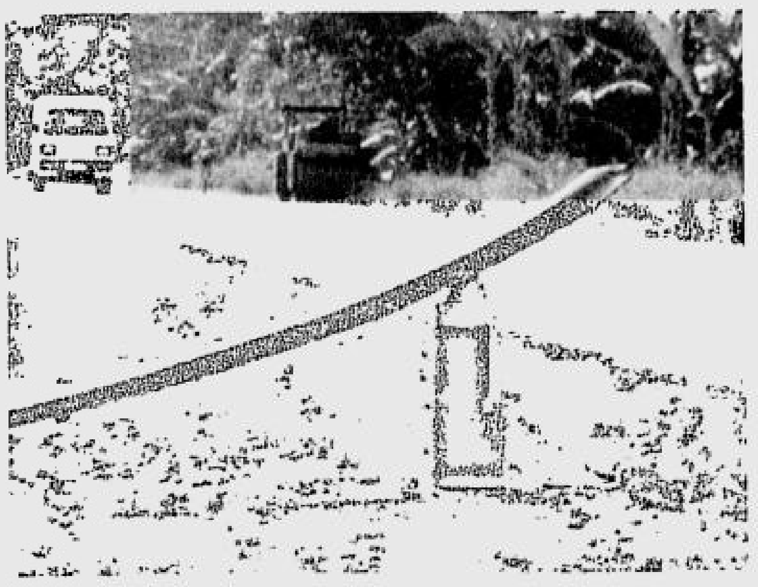
"Eight people who were in plainclothes brought him to us. I was not aware that he was Al-Ghozi," he said.

Govenor Piñol said the men who brought Al-Ghozi to the hospital registered the wounded man merely as "Mister X."

He said the armed men refused to give the hospital staff information about the wounded man.

## No encounter

After he was declared dead, Piñol said, the group took his fingerprints and then left with the body on board a pick-up truck.



**THE SITE** where Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was reported to have been killed by government forces in Barangay Midpapan, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato. Residents put flowers and markers beside dried blood allegedly from the Indonesian bomber's body.

EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The Army official, who was part of the massive manhunt, said it was unlikely that the supposed encounter took place on the national highway in Pigcawayan.

"The location is too far from the Zamboanga area where Al-Ghozi had long been contained," the source explained.

"Considering the many policemen and soldiers surrounding the area, how could he have managed to slip into North Cotabato?" The official's unit concentrated in the Zamboanga area.

The military officer based in Zamboanga said the recapture of Omar Opik Lasal, who had escaped from Camp Crame with Al-Ghozi, led to the discovery of the Indonesian's whereabouts.

"It was as good as getting Al-Ghozi, but the problem is we didn't have money to buy Al-Ghozi from his coddlers," the source added.

He said he believed that Pacer managed to "buy" Al-Ghozi from his coddlers in Lanao del Norte and "scripted" the supposed encounter that led to his death.

Lasal had claimed that Al-Ghozi was being protected by Moro Islamic Liberation Front commanders in the Zamboanga Peninsula. He identified two of the MILF commanders as Akkidin Abudusalam alias Kumander Kiddie and Kumander Salip Aloy Alshree.

Abudusalam provided shelter and a Nissan Terrano to the three fugitives in Cagayan de Oro City from July 17 to 20, while Alshree accommodated the trio in his camp known as Camp Inistar in Upper Bangga-an, Lanao del Norte, after their stay in Cagayan de Oro, Lasal said.

He said he was shocked to find out that Al-Ghozi was a highly respected trainor, leader and financier of the Zamboanga-based MILF leaders.

## No firefight

Pigcawayan residents denied that there had been an encounter.

"There was no encounter here between police or military against lawless elements," Pigcawayan Mayor Herminio Roquero said.

Ronnie Birur, 30, a resident of Barangay Crossing Midpapan, told the INQUIRER that he heard about three gunshots at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday night.

Birur resides about 50 meters from the site where several drops of blood were found on the roadside. "We do not know what it was," he said. "We learned on radio and TV that Al-Ghozi was shot near our place."

"If that was a rubout, that should not be done here," Roquero said. "There was no encounter, others invented the story at our expense," he added.

Piñol also said there was no shootout.

Citing reports from the Pigcawayan police, the governor said there were only two to three shots heard in the area.

His pronouncement prompted Ebdane to phone him before the PNP chief viewed Al-Ghozi's remains at a morgue in General Santos.

"I explained that we made a mistake by not informing him of the incident," Ebdane said. "I've taken responsibility and I asked him to just charge it to the Marines."

## No investigation

Magsaysay said he would not initiate any investigation but wanted the executive department to investigate whether one group was responsible for the escape and eventual death of Al-Ghozi.

"I would like the executive to look into the strong possibility of manipulation, machination, premeditation to use well-known prisoners within the regional terrorist list to win some 'pogi' points," he told reporters.

He surmised that the group might have had Al-Ghozi in its control since the time he escaped from Camp Crame.

"I don't have anyone particular in mind, whether it's within government or outside, but the executive should figure out who stands to benefit," the senator told the INQUIRER.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he suspected the killing of Al-Ghozi was "premeditative," probably to silence him so it will not be known how he escaped from Crame.

"It's not only Al-Ghozi who escaped and was killed, but fellow detainee Abdul Mikim Edris," Pimentel told reporters.

Opposition congressmen also questioned the timing of the killing.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the circumstances were both very "intriguing and mysterious."

Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla of Cavite challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to submit Al-Ghozi's body to a forensic test to determine the cause and the period of his death.

Rep. Rufino Rozanno Biazon said Al-Ghozi's death was expected because ever since he escaped, government officials had been saying that he would never be found alive.

Biazon recalled that Ebdane gave a shoot-to-kill order for Al-Ghozi while the Armed Forces of the Philippines said it would rather that he was killed.

The camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada was quick to accuse the PNP of summarily executing the fugitive.

The Estrada-backed Partido ng Masang Pilipino yesterday described Al-Ghozi's corpse as the President's "offering" to Bush. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Cynthia Balana, TJ Burgonio, Volt Contreras; Aquiles Z. Zonio, Charlie C. Señase, Jeffrey M. Tupas and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters, AFP, AP*

# 'My son died a martyr'

JAKARTA—The mother of slain fugitive Jemaah Islamiyah bomb-maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi yesterday said her son died a martyr and she wanted his body to be handed over to the family for burial.

"I hope that his body can be taken home. If not, I ask for the body to be buried without a shroud or being bathed because he has died as a martyr," Rukanah was quoted by the state Antara news agency as saying.

Rukanah, whose husband died in May, said she received news of Al-Ghozi's death from the Indonesian Embassy in Manila. She said a lawyer would convey her request to the embassy.

Al-Ghozi graduated in 1989 from an Islamic boarding school founded by Abu Bakar Bashir, who was jailed for four years in September for plotting to overthrow the Indonesian government.

He trained in Afghanistan and set up a JI terrorist training camp inside the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's Camp Abubakar in Central Mindanao, according to a report from the International Crisis Group of political analysts.

In 2001, Al-Ghozi was arrested in the Philippines and later sentenced by a Philippine court to 17 years in prison for illegal possession of explosives. Three months ago, he escaped from Camp Crame, together with two suspected terrorists.

Shortly after his conviction, Al-Ghozi reportedly confessed that he used part of his explosives stockpile to bomb Manila's Light Railway Transit that killed 22 people in December 2000. He also reportedly said that JI had planned to use the remainder for a bombing campaign in Singapore.

Indonesian prosecutors have said Al-Ghozi also detonated a bomb at the Philippine ambassador's residence in Jakarta in August 2000 which killed two people. *AFP*

# A big victory in war …

From page A1

will eventually get them," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. "This event should lift much of the anxieties of our people."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said Al-Ghozi's death and Bush's visit on Oct. 18 would enhance the country's image as a safe place to visit and help the tourism department meet its target of 2.2 million visitors this year.

Even so, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the country's security forces should not relax their guard following Al-Ghozi's death.

"This is definitely very good news several days before President Bush arrives because we would no longer worry about Al-Ghozi trying to slip into Manila and embarrass the government," Ermita said.

Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople said Al-Ghozi's death was a major blow against terrorism, adding several delegates to the Organization of Islamic Conference meeting in Malaysia "expressed relief over the fact that Al-Ghozi is no longer a threat."

"With Al-Ghozi's death, we have deprived the Jemaah Islamiyah of any hope of using Al-Ghozi's proven expertise in sowing more terror," said Ople who is in Malaysia for the OIC summit. One of the topics being discussed in the meeting is counterterrorism.

## Ricciardone

US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone also met with Ms Macapagal and congratulated her for the successful police operation, according to Ronald Post, US Embassy counselor for public affairs.

"It's a step forward in the global fight against terrorism. The death of Al-Ghozi makes this world a safer place," Post said.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Al-Ghozi's death was "a step forward in terms of getting terrorist organizations in Southeast Asia under control."

"Any removal of terrorists like Al-Ghozi would be significant to the campaign against the threat of terrorism in the region," a spokesperson for Singapore's home affairs ministry said.

According to the ministry, Al-Ghozi and another al-Qaida operative directed the Jemaah Islamiyah in Singapore to conduct surveillance of US and other targets in October 2001 following the al-Qaida attacks in New York and Washington.

Six truck bombs were to be used to hit the American, Israeli, British and Australian embassies, as well as US firms, in the aborted plot. Since then, 30 suspected JI members have been arrested in Singapore.

Al-Ghozi was part of the vanguard of Southeast Asian Muslim militants trained in Afghanistan and in southern Philippines. More than 200 suspected JI operatives have been arrested across Southeast Asia, but hundreds more are feared to be out in the field.

## Warning

Analysts warned against expecting too much from the killing of Al-Ghozi, especially with the emergence of suicide bombers in the region.

"I don't think it will make much of a difference because there are still other bomb-makers that JI can count on," said Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University.

"It might be significant in terms of the morale of the Philippine National Police, " Williams said.

Bilveer Singh, a political science associate professor at the National University of Singapore, said that "if one wants to discern a pattern, it is quite clear that the first generation JI terrorists and associates are being successfully hunted down."

"However, my worry is not this group. I worry more about the second and third generation JI and other groups that are active in the region, and something we know so little about," he said.

"These groups might even be spurred and triggered to action by the destruction of the first generation terrorists," he said.

"How are we going to deal with a far more lethal, motivated, dedicated and angry lot, many of whom have suicide bombing squads?" *Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Inquirer wires*

# Bomber of RP envoy's house gets jail term

From page A1

Jakarta blast and detonating the device that killed two passers-by and seriously wounded then Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday.

Wearing a white shirt and traditional Muslim cap, Jabar smiled broadly when the verdict was announced. He then told the judge that he would appeal the verdict.

Islamic militants smiling upon learning of their convictions have become a familiar sight in Indonesia in recent months.

The government, which is seeking to show it is cracking down on Muslim radicals, has arrested dozens of people over several bombings, including the Oct. 12, 2002 twin nightclub blasts on Bali that killed 202 people.

Jabar's acts have "disturbed the public order and national stability," Kusumah added.

Jabar had admitted in court that he drove the van packed with explosives from the West Java town of Cirebon to the Philippine ambassador's house in Jakarta and that he detonated the explosives using a mobile phone.

The Philippines had been a target of Islamic militants because of its war against separatist rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

Jabar also confessed to taking part in a string of church bombings in nine Indonesian cities on Christmas Eve 2000 that killed 19 people.

Jabar surrendered to police on Jan. 23 on Lombok Island, after being persuaded to do so by his family.

Indonesia marked the first anniversary of the Bali blasts on Sunday with memorial services on the tourist island attended by some 2,000 people.

Two other top Indonesian militants, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, have been implicated in the Aug. 1, 2000 attack on the ambassador.

Al-Ghozi was killed Sunday in the Philippines, while Hambali, the Jemaah Islamiyah's alleged operations chief, is in US custody after his arrest in Thailand in August. *AP*

# Barrio fiesta for Bush to cost gov't ₱500,000

From page A1

only 250 guests would be invited.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo must really mean to impress her visitors. Our countrymen should feel proud that we could feed our guests so well even though in their homes, many poor Filipino families would be sharing a can of sardines and a packet of instant noodles," Marcos said.

She said the native dishes would include *adobo* in olive oil, *bangus* belly with mango sauce dip, Filipino-style beef steak, fried rice with smoked fish, and *chicharon*.

Native delicacies will also be served, such as *lechon, puto-bumbong, lumpia*, ice cream, pork and chicken barbecue, chocolates, *halo-halo* and *pandesal* with an assortment of spreads.

Marcos said the expenses did not include drinks, as well as decorations.

Toward the end of the visit, Bush would also be honored with a state dinner to be held at Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall.

Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) said the Palace should present a complete report of its expenses.

"The administration has spent and continues to shell out millions in the pathetic effort to impress Bush," he said.

"Bush is going to stay for a mere eight hours in the country, but already, the administration has used up millions to make his short visit as comfortable and welcome as possible, even if they're all at the expense of the people's economic and political interest," he added.

## What's offensive?

Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna)asked House leaders to define early on what constituted a display of "offensive behavior" during the Bush address before the joint session of Congress.

The matter, Ocampo said, should be taken up with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone when they meet to straighten out final security details.

Ocampo is supporting a plan of several colleagues to pin peace ribbons on their chests during the Bush address to signify their opposition to US global war policy.

Earlier, Speaker Jose de Venecia warned that anyone causing a disturbance during the US president's speech would be bodily removed by security personnel from the hall and would be suspended by the House committee on ethics.

But Ocampo said what constituted disturbing behavior should be taken up now in order to prevent misunderstandings and possible altercations between the legislators and security personnel.

## Review ties

Another lawmaker, Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, Agusan del Sur), yesterday called for a review of Philippine-US bilateral relations, particularly Washington's economic and military assistance since the end of World War II as he deplored the "lopsided" relationship between the two countries.

"Is America good for the Philippines? Is the Philippine government doing all it can to maximize the benefits from the alliance?" Plaza said in a privilege speech. Plaza is a member of the House committee on foreign affairs and the joint legislative oversight committee on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Describing the US as a "smooth-talking Mr. Suave," Plaza said that if the US "makes us feel special," why is the Philippines the "basket case" of Asia.

"Why has American-styled democracy failed to work to make the Philippines a model of economic prosperity in the region or in Southeast Asia at least?" he said.

"We have fallen for the sweet words of the US government," he added.

Plaza pointed out that the US was not even among the top 10 sources of official development assistance to the Philippines. Japan rank No. 1 in the list.

In terms of military assistance, Plaza said what the Philippines has been receiving is "American junk." *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

# PILIPINONG MAKABANSA, MANINDIGAN! PANAHON NA!

ANG TAUMBAYAN, HINDI KONGRESO, ANG MAGPAPASYA
SA LIKAS NA YAMAN NG PILIPINAS.

CON-ASS*, TIGILAN NA!

MUNGKAHING TRANSITION PRESIDENT, TRANSITION TO PERDITION!

CON-ASS, TIGILAN NA!

WE ARE A NATION DIVIDED, A NATION IN CRISIS.

KAYA TAMA NA, CON-ASS, TIGILAN NA!

# LIKAS YAMAN NG PILIPINAS, PANINDIGAN!

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Chairman, Volunteers for the Victims
of Crime and Injustice

**NEMESIO PRUDENTE**
Former President
Polytechnic University of the Philippines

**JAIME L. GUERRERO**
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**DANILO S. VENIDA**
Aksyon para sa Kapayapaan at Katarungan
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**REV. FR. NACEL D. LIRIO**
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FMA Non Formal Education Coordinator
Mary Help of Christians Technology Center
Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco
Calapan City, Mindoro

**FR. JUN GREGORIO**
Maria Assumpta Seminary
Cabanatuan City

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FMA Teacher
Mary Help of Christians Technology Center
Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco
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Maria Assumpta Seminary
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**JEREMY NISHIMORI**
Empowering Civic Participation in Governance (ECPG)

**GREG HONTIVEROS**
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**ROLANDO LIBROJO**
Member, Executive Committee
Social Democratic Cauucus (SDC)

Manny M. Goyena
**MANNY GOYENA**
Economic Resource Center of the
Overseas Filipino

Ellene A. Sana
**ELLENE SANA**
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy

**JOSE A. ALBERT**
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**WIGBERTO TAÑADA**
Former Senator

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Chairman
Kabataang Sama-Samang Maglilingkod, Inc.
(KASAMA)

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Kapisanan ng Migranteng Pilipino

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Sta. Marina Omura Home
Circumferential Road
Cabanatuan City

**REV. FR. MARK C. ANCHETA**
Parochial Administrator
St. Anthony Abbot Parish
San Antonio, Nueva Ecija

**SR. LOURDES S. PANGANIBAN**
Vice President for Academic Affairs
College of the Immaculate Conception
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

**REV. ALFREDO V. MONASTERIO**
Pastor
Banilao Alliance Fellowship
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Chairman
Mindanao Volunteers Movement
for Good Governance

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Kalbigan '98 Volunteers Ass, Inc.
Majority Floor Leader

**LEO J. SANTIAGO**
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Maritime Party

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President
Kapisanan ng Migranteng Pilipino - Japan

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Executive Director
Pag-aalay Ng Puso Foundation, Inc.

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**MIKE CATAIN**
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ng mga Maykapansanan (KIHM)

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Bishop of Cabanatuan
Cabanatuan City

**DINGDONG DANTES**
Youth Advocate
B.I.D.A. Organization

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ADVT

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Islamic states urge US to set timetable for leaving Iraq

**PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia— The world's Muslims opened a major conference here Monday with calls for the United States to set a timetable for leaving Iraq, fierce condemnation of Israel and anger over their treatment since the Sept. 11 attacks.**

The three themes were highlighted by speakers at the opening session of a meeting of foreign ministers of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference preparing for a summit of heads of state on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Al-Thani of Qatar, which has held the OIC chairmanship since the last summit three years ago, told the opening session that Muslim states needed to push for "a specific timetable for ending the occupation" of Iraq.

Syed Hamid Albar, foreign minister of the incoming OIC chair, Malaysia, said "foreign occupation of the country must be brought to an end as soon as possible."

"The occupying powers must work in earnest on a timetable for a democratically elected government to be installed within a reasonably prompt timeframe," with the United Nations playing a central role, he said.

Conference sources said, however, that it appeared from meetings behind closed doors that a resolution on Iraq to be presented by heads of state would not go into specifics.

"It will proclaim attachment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, call for swift empowerment of the Iraqis and a quick end to occupation," an Arab diplomat said.

The controversial issue of member-state Turkey's decision to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq alongside US forces had not been put formally on the table, he said, but the overwhelming majority of states would oppose the deployment without a UN mandate.

The Iraqi Governing Council also opposes the plan, which it fears might interfere with domestic politics and impede the already fragile efforts to rebuild the war-torn country.

There was total agreement, however, over resolutions condemning Israel for its strike on an alleged militant base in Syria a week ago and "aggression" toward the Palestinians, the diplomat said.

Speakers at the opening session had singled out the situation in the Middle East as a priority for the summit.

"This blatant act of aggression against Syria, a fellow member of the OIC, must be condemned in the strongest terms as provocative, arrogant and dangerous," said Syed Hamid.

He also condemned Israeli incursions into Palestinian areas and called on Israel to drop any plans to deport or kill Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying his assassination would be "clearly an act of state terrorism."

Turning to the upheaval in global politics since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, he said the Muslim world was facing "great challenges."

"The threats of unilateralism, globalization and terrorism, the precarious situation in the Middle East and the uncertain future in Iraq, to name a few, have only served to threaten our very survival."

OIC secretary general Abdelouahed Belkeziz took the same line, saying: "We meet under conditions that are full with challenges and dangers unprecedented in the contemporary history of the Islamic nation."

"Islam itself is being accused in its culture, civilization and speech.

"Muslims are filled with feelings of impotence and frustration as some of their countries are occupied, others are under sanctions, a third group threatened and a fourth group accused of sponsoring terrorism."

The conference is taking place amid tight security in Malaysia's new administrative capital of Putrajaya south of Kuala Lumpur, with more than 8,000 armed police and soldiers on duty, backed by helicopters overhead and launches patrolling the many lakes in the area. *AFP*

**A CAR set on fire by protesters burns on the road that links La Paz to El Alto, Bolivia, on Oct. 12 as demonstrators try to bring the country to a standstill with roadblocks and strikes.** AFP

## 20 killed as Bolivia deals with unrest

LA PAZ, Bolivia—Around 20 protesters were reported killed on Sunday after Bolivia's government sent thousands of troops backed by tanks to quell increasingly violent protests against President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

The protesters were killed during pitched battles with troops clearing roadblocks choking food and gasoline supplies to the capital in and around the poor industrial suburb of El Alto, outside La Paz, human rights officials said.

The government, which has played down death tolls in recent protests, said four civilians and one soldier were killed and that around 30 others were injured.

Sunday's clashes raise the toll to around 30 dead and dozens injured during a month-long wave of protests against Sanchez de Lozada's free market policies and failure to tackle crushing poverty in South America's poorest nation.

"It is difficult to come up with an exact toll, but according to the reports we have studied, there are 20 dead and 91 injured in or near El Alto," said Waldo Albarracin, president of Bolivia's Permanent Human Rights Assembly.

Fuel and basic foods were running short in the capital as thousands of poor Bolivian farmers and workers calling for Sanchez de Lozada to quit stopped convoys of trucks entering the Andean city with roadblocks.

Presidential spokesperson Mauricio Antezana said the government could order a curfew in El Alto at any time to stop what it perceived as a coup attempt by its opponents—a charge it has made on several occasions in the past. *Reuters*

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# Roh to stake presidency in Dec. 15 referendum

SEOUL—South Korea's embattled President Roh Moo-Hyun said Monday he would put his job on the line in a Dec. 15 referendum and step down if the vote went against him.

The 57-year-old former human rights lawyer, facing crumbling popular support, a hostile parliament and a critical media, said he needed a new mandate less than a year after his election to office for a five-year term.

Roh's comments in a policy speech to the National Assembly came three days after he triggered a political crisis when he indicated that he had lost his legitimacy to rule.

A day later, instability deepened when his entire cabinet offered to resign, claiming responsibility for Roh's ,troubles. The president rejected the offer.

The left-of-center leader, in office for just over seven months, has seen his approval ratings crash from nearly 80 percent to less than 30 percent since he won election in December last year.

A track record of inconsistency has alienated voters who see Roh as ineffectual in dealing with South Korea's economic slowdown and the lingering North Korean nuclear crisis.

Roh's surprise call for a national referendum was sparked by the latest graft case affecting one of his closest allies.

Prosecutors have accused Choi Do-Sul, a former top advisor to Roh, of taking around $1 million in bribes from SK Corp, South Korea's third largest business group, in exchange for favors.

The allegations against Choi and other top political figures emerged last week as Roh attended a summit meeting of regional leaders in Indonesia.

Roh, in his National Assembly speech, said that when he heard the allegations: "I felt darkness in front of my eyes... I felt so miserable."

"We have no future without correcting the rampant corruption in political circles and moral indifference to this."

Roh, 57, won December's presidential elections promising to root out corrupt political practices revolving around slush funds that have oiled the wheels of power in South Korea for decades.

On Friday, he said he had lost the "moral authority" that legitimized his his reformist rule.

However, some analysts see political calculation behind the hand-wringing over corruption.

Parliament is controlled by the opposition Grand National Party (GNP), a vehemently anti-Roh conservative group that has gained in confidence as Roh has struggled.

The GNP holds a majority of 149 seats in the 272-seat National Assembly going into parliamentary elections scheduled for April. *AFP*

## Rafah a disaster zone after Israeli forces raid

RAFAH, Gaza Strip—The governor of Rafah declared the area a disaster zone Sunday just hours after Israeli forces pulled out of this town and camp in southern Gaza following a major raid which killed eight Palestinians and left hundreds of people homeless.

Palestinian security sources and an AFP correspondent witnesses about 40 tanks pulling out of the area during Saturday night, but although an Israeli military source confirmed the withdrawal, he hinted it was only temporary.

The operation to destroy weapons-smuggling tunnels snaking under the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt would "continue as long as is necessary," he said.

Despite the pullback, six more Palestinians were moderately injured by Israeli gunfire on Sunday, as troops fired intermittently from the Israeli-controlled border area to which they retreated, medical sources said.

"We announce Rafah is a city of disaster," said Rafah governor Majid al-Ghal, pointing out that at least 100 houses had been destroyed during the operation.

"They have destroyed the roads, the water supplies, sewage, telephones, electricity."

A local source for the Palestinian Center for Human Rights also said "at least 100 houses" had been destroyed.

Peter Hansen, head of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said about 1,500 people had been left homeless as a result of the operation.

"We have had very, very significant damage to the refugee camp," he said.

"It would appear between 100 and 120 shelters/houses were completely destroyed or demolished... If these initial estimates are correct, it will mean we will have some 1,500 persons added to the homeless roll in Rafah."

An Israeli source said the figures were "definitely exaggerated" and that only "around 10 houses" under which the tunnels ran had been destroyed.

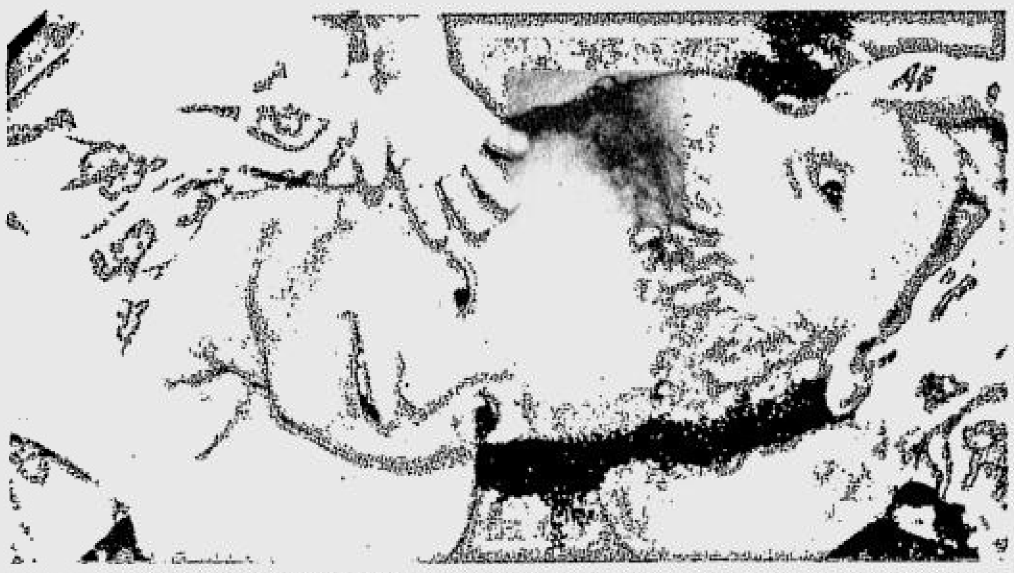
Other houses could have been damaged when the tunnels collapsed, or when mortar shells fired by the Palestinians themselves went awry.

"During the intensive fighting, they fired literally dozens of anti-tank missiles," said the source. "All of this weaponry had to hit something."

Governor Ghal was deeply sceptical the aim of the operation was merely to destroy the tunnels.

"They want a buffer zone near the border. The subject of tunnels is a false accusation and a lie. Why destroy trees, agricultural land?"

Eight Palestinians were killed, including two children and two teenagers, and about 80 injured during the operation launched Thursday night in which Israel has managed to locate three tunnels. *AFP*



**DOCTORS** separated 2-year-old Egyptian twins, Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim, joined at the crown of their heads Oct. 12, giving them independent lives in a medical procedure that, so far, has had no complications. REUTERS

## Twins separated, in stable condition

DALLAS, Texas—Two Egyptian boys who were born joined at the head were lying in separate beds for the first time in their two years of existence on Monday, but doctors who worked 26 hours to separate them warned that they still faced a long road to recovery.

Separation of the twins was successfully completed at 11:17 a.m. on Sunday, the Children's Medical Center announced, 26 hours after surgery began.

Plastic surgeons then worked another seven hours to close the wounds, grafting tissue taken from the boys' thighs over the tops of the their skulls, which had previously been joined at the crown.

The infants, still heavily sedated, were listed in critical but stable condition after surgery was completed late Sunday, but doctors warned of potential complications and a long road to recovery ahead.

"We're very pleased with this outcome, but the post-surgical recovery determines the overall outcome," said Dale Swift, one of five neurosurgeons who worked to separate the twins.

"We'll be extremely concerned for them over the next few weeks. This is a long road."

A waiting room packed with family and supporters erupted in cheers and tears when a nurse delivered the news shortly after 11 am: "we have two boys."

The boys' father "jumped up on my neck and he hugged me and he fainted," said Nasser Abdelal, a pediatrician who had cared for the boys in Cairo and traveled to Texas with the parents for the operation.

"The mother on the other hand was crying, like everybody else, and she was there thanking everybody around and thanking her fate."

Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim were born in a small town 800 km south of Cairo in June 2001, then moved to the University of Cairo hospital. *AFP*

## 100 Taliban fighters kill 8 policemen in raid

KABUL—Up to 100 Afghan Taliban guerrillas attacked a district office in the province of Zabul early Sunday, killing eight policemen and wounding two others, a local official said.

The latest attack by a resurgent guerrilla movement occurred in Zabul's Arghandab district shortly before 2 a.m., district officer Haji Qudratullah said.

He said up to 100 Taliban fighters were involved, who burned down the district office and destroyed four vehicles.

Qudratullah said he had no figure for Taliban casualties, though he had heard that some of the attackers had been killed.

"People said they took dead bodies with them," he said. Government forces had reoccupied the area after dawn.

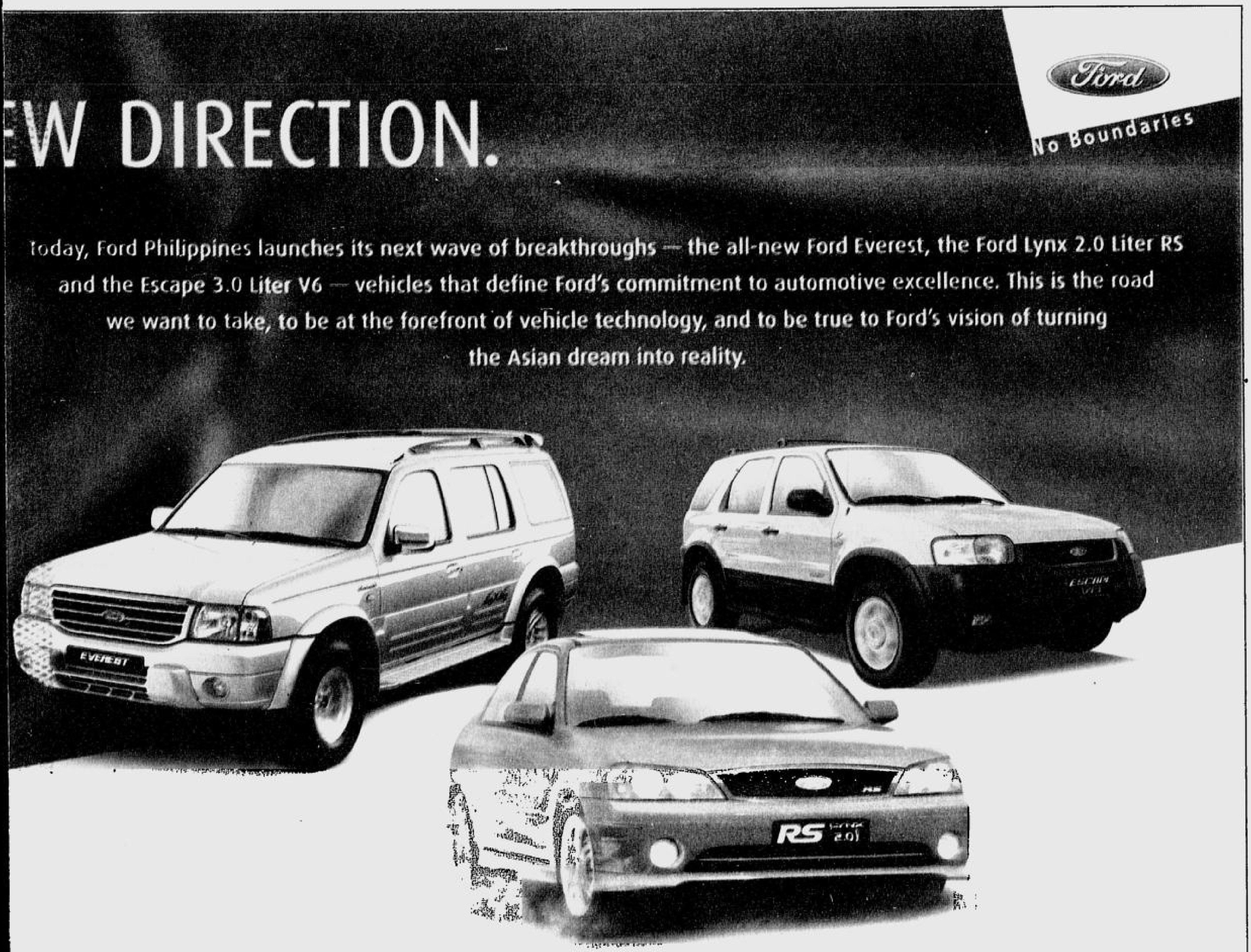
The attack was just the latest in a series by the Taliban movement, ousted from government by US-led forces in late 2001 for sheltering the al-Qaida network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that year.

The period since the start of August has been the bloodiest in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban, with more than 300 people killed, many of them in guerrilla attacks.

The dead have included Afghan aid workers, government soldiers, policemen and US troops from the 11,500-strong US-led force still searching for Taliban remnants and al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Sunday's attack follows an audacious escape by 41 Taliban prisoners from the main jail in Kandahar province, Zabul's neighbour.

Among the escapees was Mawlavi Abdullah, brother of former Taliban defense minister Obaidullah, and a commander named Aziz Agham who officials say mounted a number of guerrilla attacks in the months before his capture earlier this year. *Reuters*



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# OPINION

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*Editor in Chief* **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
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# Corruption

**EDITORIAL**

LAST week a global corruption report by sleaze watchdog Transparency International showed the Philippines among the most corrupt nations in the world.

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 was perceived to be "highly clean" or "least corrupt" and zero as "highly corrupt," the Philippines scored 2.5. Out of the 133 nations TI surveyed, the Philippines was one of eight nations ranked 92nd in a list where the country perceived to be "least corrupt" was ranked No. 1.

Finland, Denmark, New Zealand and Iceland, with scores of 9.7, 9.5, 9.5 and 9.4, respectively, topped the list as highly clean countries. Bangladesh, with a score of 1.3, occupied the bottom of the list, taking the unenviable title of the most corrupt nation.

Corruption has been a fact of life in the Philippines since the post-Liberation period, but it reached its apex during the Marcos conjugal dictatorship. The Guinness Book of World Records, under the heading "biggest robbery," says that "the total wealth taken by the couple was believed to be $5-$10 billion."

Peter Eigen, chair of Transparency International, defines corruption as "the abuse of entrusted power for private benefit and is as such conducive to severe political, economic and social costs." Corruption has no direct, clearcut victim but ultimately victimizes the entire society, and most especially its most disadvantaged and most vulnerable members.

Eigen says the entire society should be concerned about corruption because:

- It represents a direct attack on democratic institutions. He cites Edsa II to show how corruption at the highest levels of government can undermine the legitimacy of democratic institutions.
- It causes significant economic losses. Paulo Mauro of the International Monetary Fund says that a corrupt institutional environment acts as an additional tax on business, thus discouraging private investment. "Unfortunately," Eigen says, "the countries most in need of foreign investment tend to be those who suffer from widespread corruption."
- It affects human rights, not only in terms of the repression of dissenters and the denial of the rule of law, but also in denying the people the fundamental and social rights guaranteed to them by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- It greatly affects the environment and traditional community life. For instance, illegal logging in the Philippines has destroyed the environment and threatened villagers' livelihoods.

Corruption has always been a major issue in Philippine elections—it has become such a byword that you could practically spell graft and corruption as one word when mentioning it as an issue. Candidates win or lose on the issue of graft and yet after they are elected, the same cycle of venality occurs again: the "clean" ones become "dirty" and later become the targets of those who seek to replace them.

Is corruption the inescapable fate of the Philippines, and indeed, of most of the poor countries of Asia? Corruption thrives best in poor countries. This is borne out by the data of Transparency International which show that half of the developing nations scored less than 3 on a scale of 10, indicating a high level of corruption.

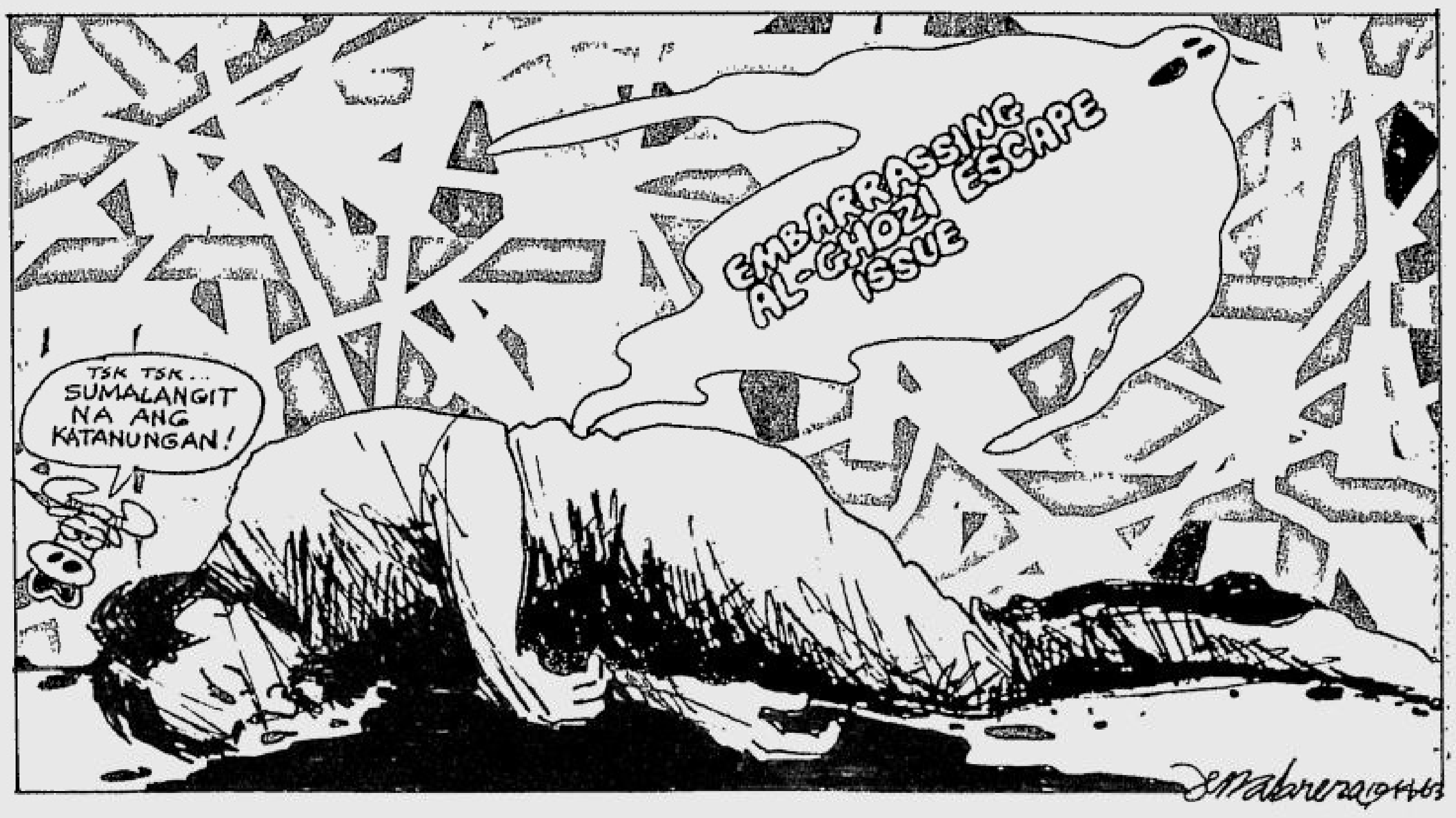
Corruption is never considered an end in itself. Prof. Syed Hussein Alatas, who wrote a classic treatise on corruption, "Corruption and the Destiny of Asia," says that it is always a means to an end, such as wealth, power, influence, favors or control. Islamic scholar Abdul Rahman Ibn Khaldun considered the root cause of corruption to be the ruling group's desire for luxurious living. Don't we know this from experience in the Philippines!

Among the other identified causes of corruption are absence or weakness of leadership capable of inspiring and influencing conduct to curb corruption; weakness of religious and ethical teachings, colonialism, lack of education, poverty, absence of punitive measures, absence of environment conducive to anti-corrupt behavior, and the state of society.

The Philippines has suffered greatly because of corruption. The World Bank, in a study in 2000, said the government lost about $48 billion because of corruption over a 20-year period. Morgan Stanley Research estimated that losses from corruption totaled $204 billion from 1965 to 2001.

Corruption has flourished in the Philippines because of a culture of impunity. The corrupt—and smart—ones can amass ill-gotten wealth and go scot-free. Instead of being jailed or being held in contempt, they are lionized and accepted into decent society. Using their wealth, they win positions of power and influence, thus giving them the means to protect their ill-gotten gains.

The culture of impunity has to end. Those who have plundered the nation's coffers have to be brought to justice. We have all the laws to deal with graft and corruption but they are not being enforced. Laws are not enough; there has to be a strong climate of public opinion that will regard grafters as the criminals that they are and not as the icons of society that they are now held up to be.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# Cha-cha dancers are now desperate

## AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

*(Continued from yesterday)*

SO who would be the opposition candidate? Former Sen. Raul Roco, topnotcher in the poll surveys? Like Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, Roco's Aksyon Democratiko is a member of the administration coalition but opposition leaders want their own candidate. Besides, rating high in the surveys is not the same as getting the actual votes and having them counted for you. Many observers believe Roco doesn't have the political machinery to deliver the votes.

How about Noli de Castro? He is a reluctant presidential candidate, and also a member of the coalition. Besides, according to rumors, Lakas is offering him P500 million to be GMA's running mate. But will he opt to be only No. 2 instead of No. 1?

How about Da King himself, Fernando Poe Jr. FPJ is another reluctant candidate, and the reason is, again according to rumors, that he is not a Filipino citizen. Besides, he himself admits his limitations. He has no experience in government administration, not prepared at all to be president. Yet because of his immense popularity as a movie actor among the masses, it is believed he would sweep the polls. He rates low in the surveys now because he has said repeatedly he doesn't want to run. But once he declares that he is throwing his hat into the ring, his ranking will zoom up as his fans rally to him.

But if it is true that he is not a Filipino citizen, how can he be a candidate?

Sen. Gringo Honasan has officially declared his candidacy, but with all his troubles, and his spotty record in the Senate, he would be clobbered in the elections.

Sen. Loren Legarda has just resigned as vice president of Lakas and majority leader of the Senate to run for vice president. With President Macapagal-Arroyo running, there's no place for her in Lakas. Two women running as a presidential-vice presidential team would not sit well with the macho Filipino society. So she can be a vice-presidential candidate only in another party with a male standard bearer.

But what if she herself is the standard bearer? What if the presidential race is between two women? Loren is a proven vote-getter; she topped the senatorial elections six years ago. She has a good record in the Senate. She still has no political baggage like GMA has. If we consider Tony Leviste as baggage, so is Mike Arroyo. Plus Filipino voters have a weakness for good-looking candidates, and Loren is prettier than the incumbent President.

For this reason, some opposition leaders are talking to Loren to aim for No. 1. But Loren, when I asked her about it, replied that that is not, yet, in her mind. She is not that ambitious. She would be happy to be No. 2. Nevertheless, she would ask her political advisers about it. That's an intriguing prospect, isn't it?

With a head-to-head contest between two women, however, what will happen to the honorary woman, Raul Roco. He would be the standard bearer of a third force, a candidate for the macho voters. Filipinos are almost evenly divided between male and female. Assuming they would vote according to their sexes, that means Roco would get half of the votes and the two women would split the balance between them. Which means Roco would win the three-cornered fight.

Which means the opposition is still up in a tree.

* * *

The Cha-cha dancers are getting desperate. They know time is running out. And their desperation is evident in the series of full-page advertisements attacking the Senate for not endorsing a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution before the presidential elections. These ads cost a lot of money, but the first ad was claimed by a small group of private citizens.

The second ad which appeared last Sunday was supposedly placed by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, but we know who are behind it: the congressmen behind whom is the conductor of the Cha-cha orchestra, the mastermind whose motive is not reforms as they claim, but an overwhelming ambition to be chief executive of the nation. He knows he can never win as president, so he wants to be chief executive through the back door, by transforming our system of government from presidential to parliamentary.

In the latter, the chief of government is the prime minister who is elected not by the people but by the members of Parliament (MPs), the counterparts of today's congressmen. The people have no say in the choice of the person who will govern them. They will not be able to vote for him. They will effectively be disfranchised.

The privilege of electing the chief executive would be left to the MPs. And you know what that means. Parliament would be an old boys' club controlled by the majority party, conspiring to exploit the people. You know how the present congressmen are exploiting us now. It would be worse in a parliamentary system.

Members of the Cabinet will also be MPs. The chief executive, the counterpart of today's president, will also come from Parliament, a member of the gang. There will be no Senate to check the legislative abuses of Parliament. Even the judiciary will be under the control of the MPs. And the future MPs will most likely be the present congressmen and their relatives and protégés. Can you imagine a worse scenario. There will be no system of checks and balance like the presidential system has.

The Cha-cha dancers claim a parliamentary system will check corruption. On the contrary, corruption will get worse. It's like giving the MPs a blank check or the combination to the National Treasury. Corruption was so bad in Japan and South Korea, both of which have parliamentary systems, that their prime ministers were imprisoned. With the quality, or lack of it, of our local representatives, it would be much worse here.

# 'Ultimo adios'

## THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

I DON'T know how any group calling itself civil society can be so blind.

Joel Pagsanghan of Kilusang 12.30 says his group will disband since its reason for being no longer exists. Contrary to what GMA promised last year, she is running anyway. "We are disappointed that the President went back on her word. We have no stand with regard to the 2004 elections. It remains to be seen if we'll endorse anyone." But the group vows not to withdraw its support for GMA's "reform agenda."

I know NGOs have earned a reputation for being suckers for punishment, but I've never known them to be suckers for this kind of punishment. At the very least, you would expect anyone, civil or not, who has been betrayed in this epic way, to express disgust and not just disappointment. Someone turns back on her word big time, and you continue to believe anything she says? Above all bringing reform to this country?

In fact, if GMA is reforming anything, it is only everything civil society holds dear. Chief of them is the memory of our heroes.

Lest we forget, GMA announced her "sacrifice" (Kilusang 12.30's word, the group arising out of the ashes to defend its purity and integrity) on Rizal Day. If Rizal is known for anything, it is for being true to his word. He was so true to his word he quite bravely, if not entirely willingly, faced the firing squad at the Luneta. When he wrote "Mi Ultimo Adios," he really meant ultimo, the last, the end, the finish line. When GMA wrote her "Mi Ultimo Adios," only she knew what she meant. Her inspiration could not have been Rizal. Maybe it was someone named Lazaro Makapagal, the fellow who confessed to killing Andres Bonifacio.

Indeed, if GMA is reforming anything, it is this country's political ethics. Not only has she declared she is going to run after duping people like those in Kilusang 12.30, she is campaigning ahead of everybody else. In complete violation of election laws. Of course, she was guilty of this long before this time. The reason for the divisiveness she alluded to last Dec. 30 was that she had been campaigning from the start, which drove everyone to follow suit. That ushered in an early political season into the country—three years before elections!—with its attendant acrimony. I myself became sure she would run last Lent, when she stomped the South like a *trapo*, singing "Roro row your boat" instead of "Nancy Hudas" to the Visayans and the Mindanaoans.

There is yet one other electoral law she is violating, which is the ban on the use of public funds for campaigning. Who spent for that extravaganza the other Saturday when she declared her decision to run, one that brought in stars and (all sorts of political) stripes to *Mekeni* country? The spectacle was amusing—not least GMA's thesis that she lied to serve a "higher cause"—until you realized you were being burned in your own fat. It was your money being used to treat you to the Nora Aunor sing-and-dance. But I disrespect Nora Aunor.

None of this comes close to something GMA is reforming, something that has been dear to the heart of civil society. The total destruction of which mocks all those declarations by NGO leaders, ex or not, that they are supporting a "reform agenda." That is this country's democracy. The democracy civil society has always associated with multiplicity, pluralism, respect for differences, consensus-building, sovereignty, independence, self-determination, self-reliance, non-alignment, civil liberties, human rights, civilian supremacy, peace, civility, brotherhood (or sisterhood), respect for life, common decency.

This week is particularly dedicated to reminding everyone of its betrayal. George Bush is visiting, and GMA is pulling all stops to make sure he is treated regally. And to make sure he is seen to be endorsing her for next year. Bush was the original reason GMA cited for running again: Apparently, he wanted her to. If true, God had spoken after all—her god anyway.

But can there be any doubt the heart of GMA's "reform agenda" has been to reform the "people's agenda," as civil society itself calls it, into Bush's agenda? Can there be any doubt about the sweeping changes in this country's social landscape since GMA embraced the "war against terror"? Whose greatest accomplishment is the now universally scorned US invasion of Iraq?

I can accept GMA turning back on her word, but I cannot accept GMA turning back on her country. Or its highest expression, which are the dreams of Edsa II, dreams civil society overthrew a tyrant for, dreams that put GMA where she is. That is the bigger betrayal. And I cannot understand how civil society leaders, ex or current, can accept that. I cannot understand how they can be silent in the face of it or imagine their by now personal crusades are not refuted utterly, starkly, profoundly by it. I cannot understand how in the face of it, they can still talk of a reform agenda that they can support.

Those who like to participate in the civil society forums in the e-mail, just tell us plain and simple: You think the "war against terror" is the greatest thing to have happened to this country? You think being silent in the face of it is the best way to defend freedom and democracy? You think laying out the welcome mat for the American Caesar is the best way to build a civil society?

Almost 12 years ago, we thought we said goodbye to American military presence here in the form of US bases. Now that military presence is back, and more directly in the form of combat troops. Well, GMA may keep changing her mind about her final farewell, but she may not always have the final say.

The people will write her "Ultimo Adios" for her if the NGOs won't.

# Inaccurate

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE ELIMINATION of dreaded international terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi comes on the eve of the visit of US President Bush and doubtless contributes to the easing of tension over the security of this event. The combined military and police forces in Mindanao that conducted the massive manhunt that ended in the killing of the terrorist have to be commended for doing a job well done. One can see how the relentless pressure from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the police to track down Al-Ghozi before the Bush visit worked, proving that they can get a job done if they set their minds to it. Doubtless PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane feels vindicated, as he really got it when the terrorist was able to escape through a defective door some months back. The next step is to ensure the security of the capital over the next few days, particularly the sites the US president and his party will visit.

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**Senate blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo must be lauded for his courage in coming out with a 16-page draft ruling setting down the just and sensible dictum that should govern the conduct of Senate inquiries. He ruled that a private citizen can invoke his constitutional right to privacy during a legislative inquiry, particularly if the issue being dissected does not involve public funds or funds coming from illegal sources. Arroyo also stressed that the burden of proving wrongdoing with regard to the use of public funds, which is "a fit subject of legislative inquiry," must rest with the accusing legislator and not the private individual summoned to a hearing.**

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The members of the three Senate committees investigating the allegations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo (blue ribbon and the committees on banks chaired by Sen. Sergio Osmeña, and electoral reform chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara) will still vote on Arroyo's ruling. It's difficult to say how the opposition would regard it, given the highly partisan atmosphere in the Senate, but Arroyo's insistence that a legislator has to present at least a shred of evidence to support his accusation is triumph enough for the responsible use of the privilege speech and parliamentary immunity. It is a big step toward preventing the abuse of these very powerful legislative weapons.

In his draft ruling, Arroyo lamented that after two hearings that took a total of nine hours, Lacson has yet to share with his fellow senators the proof and documented findings he claims to have, and that the Arroyo brothers are being asked to supply the evidence. Arroyo's ruling is a blow for the constitutional right to privacy, and citizens can breathe a sigh of relief that here's a senator who's willing to do what is right, even if his colleagues may not agree with him.

* * *

**Lacson is playing up to the grandstand when he pictures himself as in danger of imminent arrest because of his exposés against the First Couple. I caught the news one evening that Lacson was on his way to the Senate to deliver his third exposé, but he made a U-turn because of intelligence reports that Malacañang was about to arrest him. That alibi did not surprise me, but was surprised that ABS-CBN aired it, knowing full well that under our judicial system Malacañang cannot order any one's arrest, since only a court can do so.**

* * *

In describing his "one week in hell" after the Supreme Court denied his motion for reconsideration against the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case, Lacson said his woes began when he declared his intention to run for president. That is not accurate. His woes began in 1995 when his men were involved in shooting down members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang while they were in the custody of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission which he headed. The justice department alleged that the PACC carried out a rubout of the KB men, not a shootout, because it was after the $2 million and P200,000 the gangsters had at the time.

* * *

**Interestingly, the Senate committees on justice and human rights, crime and national defense, chaired by Senators Raul Roco, Ernesto Maceda and Orlando Mercado, jointly investigated the KB case immediately after the 1995 killings. They declared that the 11 people killed, including two children, were defenseless since they were already in police custody, and that only the lawmen fired guns. The committees recommended that key PACC officials led by Lacson be charged with multiple murder. In fact, Maceda, now a key opposition leader, declared then that "the fact that ranking police officers tried to cover up this grotesque multiple murder and pass off this inglorious moment as a case of police heroism magnifies the scale of the tragedy."**

**In a recent interview, Roco recalled that Lacson never seized the opportunity to clear his name or his men during the hearings. In fact, as Roco pointed out to Winnie Monsod later, the former PACC chief invoked the right to remain silent no less than nine times. Lacson has this habit of invoking this right when confronted with allegations of questionable conduct. After the Senate committees on public accountability, illegal drugs and defense conducted hearings that linked him to illegal drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom, the report noted that neither he nor his key officers defended the PAOCTF which was responsible for fighting illegal drugs. The committees recommended that Lacson and his key officers be investigated and/or charged for their alleged illegal activities.**

# Judges get their due

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

PENDING before the House of Representatives and the Senate is an act granting additional compensation—in the form of special allowances—for justices, judges and other equivalent positions in the judiciary.

The special allowance is equivalent to 100 percent of the current basic salaries of the justices and judges and other court personnel occupying equivalent ranks, effectively doubling their compensation. Under the refined version of the bill, justices and judges will get a 100 percent increase in salary in the form of a special allowance to be spread over a period of four years. The increase in special allowance will also be included in the computation of their retirement package.

But why an allowance instead of an outright salary increase? Briefing materials say the phrase "special allowances" was favored by the bicameral committee "because it would cause less demoralization among government employees in different branches of government." Government employees, after all, are still covered by the Salary Standardization Law which had held down the salaries of justices and judges to grossly uncompetitive levels.

This is the reason for the large number of vacancies in the judiciary, ranging from 100 percent among Shari'a District Courts (meaning, there are no judges for the five vacant courts), 66 percent among Shari'a Circuit Courts, 53 percent among Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, and 40 percent among Municipal Trial Courts, with a national total vacancy rate of 30.6 percent. And with the large number of courts left vacant, justices and judges have had to cope with extraordinarily heavy case loads, resulting in an alarming backlog of unresolved cases.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who was the presiding officer during the final bicameral conference committee meeting, headed the Senate panel together with Sen. Joker Arroyo, and Sen. Manny Villar. Those in the House panel were Representatives Danton Buesser, Marcelino Libanan and Rolando Andaya, Jr.

* * *

**SEN. Francis Pangilinan, whose "pet" measure this is, says he hopes the measure will be passed by both chambers of Congress by next week, pending the usual legislative process and deliberations on amendments being introduced by Sen. John Osmeña.**

**But even now, even with the measure still pending, it has already begun producing the desired results. Pangilinan says that over the past two months, based on figures supplied by the Judicial and Bar Council, the number of applicants for judgeship positions in various courts throughout the country has swelled. He sees in the jump in the number of applicants for judge's positions in such underserved areas as Eastern Samar, Basilan, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental and Agusan del Norte a "clear sign" of the act's timeliness and urgent need**

**Pangilinan says the increase is "overwhelming." In Ozamiz City, for instance, applicants for Regional Trial Court judge swelled from 13 to 150. "With this measure, I think we really hit the nail on the head," the senator remarked.**

**The increase in compensation for justices and judges is really overdue, considering the discrepancies between their salaries and those of lawyers who appear before them in court. A lawyer fresh out of law school and perhaps still waiting for the bar results is likely to receive a minimum starting monthly salary of P35,000 at any of the larger Makati firms. A municipal trial court judge, meanwhile, receives an average monthly salary of P22,000, while a regional trial court judge receives just P2,000 more a month. And what of the Supreme Court justices, whose rulings have direct impact on national policy and on billion-peso outcomes? Under present rules, a Supreme Court justice receives P40,000 a month, which in the private sector would be the equivalent salary of middle management.**

* * *

SOME critics have wondered why justices and judges should be singled out for special treatment, even as other government officials remain bound by the Salary Standardization Law.

The work of dispensing justice and interpreting the law is not only an indispensable part of the democratic process, it's also the final step taken by disgruntled citizens seeking redress from the state. When justice is delayed, denied or applied haphazardly, it spells the death knell for whatever lingering belief people still have in our democracy. Historically, too, the judiciary, which is supposed to be one of three equal branches of government, has been shortchanged in terms of resources, perhaps because it has little to do with setting and approving budgets. Incredibly, the total budget for the judiciary amounts to a mere 0.9 percent of the total budget of the national government. Yes, you read it right. The judicial branch receives less than one percent of the total government budget, even as it's expected to function as the third arm of the State.

* * *

**THE MEASURE giving a special allowance for members of the judiciary is also expected to pave the way for a "no-nonsense" review of the law on salary standardization that puts a cap on the wages of the entire government bureaucracy. Says Pangilinan: "We need to confront the issue that the SSL no longer provides a competitive wage for our government employees. This is the beginning of the process of reforming the salary structure of the entire bureaucracy. In the end, all government employees will benefit when we amend the SSL."**

**All of us, from business leaders to the lowly market vendors, regularly decry corruption in government as the source of our country's many ills. And yet we expect government workers to resist the temptation of bribes and accommodations even as they struggle to raise families on starvation wages.**

# The black legend

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

*Bambi L. Harper*

FREQUENTLY we hear it said that during the Spanish era, education was completely abandoned and normal schools, especially for women, were unknown in the Philippines. On the other hand, there are others who say that the missionaries made use of the more educated locals to monitor the parish schools. These were the right-hand men of the religious educators and the first Filipino teachers. The religious were, for the most part, the supervisors but Filipinos did the actual teaching.

A lot of our prejudices and biases regarding the Spanish period in our history comes from misinformation, ignorance and, of course, brain washing. This is not about defending imperialism, colonialism, etc., rather it's an effort to set the record straight, to encourage a more questioning attitude toward our history.

If we had been educated properly, we would also have known that in colonies and even independent countries where the church did not establish an educational system, neither did the state. It was only in the last hundred or so years that states began to control and maintain a system of education. Prior to this, either the church did it or it wasn't done at all.

Normal schools arrived much later. In the Philippines, those for men opened in 1865, supported by the government and administered by the Jesuits. Schools for women merely added a course for teachers. Thus, Sta. Catalina under the Dominicans and Sta. Isabel under the Sisters of Charity started in 1865 as well. In the years following, normal schools were opened: Sta. Rosa, La Concordia, Ntra. Sra. Del Rosario de Vigan, El Beaterio de la Compania, La Consolacion and El Smo. Rosario de Lingayen. In the last decade of the 19th century, many of these centers were converted into normal schools.

Nueva Caceres, established in 1871 by Bishop Gainza, O.P. and run by the Sisters of Charity, was considered a normal school of the first category. The Assumption, founded by the Queen Mother in 1892, was specifically set up as a normal school.

There were 10 normal schools for teachers by the last decade of the century. It is true that there were few of them and they started late. However in other independent countries, there were even fewer and they opened much later than in the Philippines. In some colonies, there were none at all.

In an article in Hispanidad in 1941, Srta. Alzona states that until 1872 there were only the Normal School for Men, another normal school in Nueva Caceres and three schools for women with courses in teaching. But the situation was the same in France: Paris opened its first normal school in 1872.

In Italy, projects to train teachers commenced in 1859 but regular normal schools did not operate until 1898. Recommendations for pedagogy departments started in England in 1888 but did not really take effect until the onset of the 20th century. In Russia, these were established in 1826, and in Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Canada and Brazil, these were founded much later than in the Philippines.

Dr. Fernando Zialcita of the Ateneo tells us that "when the Spaniards came, the religious congregations opened schools both for the Spaniards and the native *principalía*. The limited audience for such schools is understandable in the pre-19th century world. Even in Western Europe or Japan or China, education was then for the elite—clergy/nobility/merchants—not for the peasants. All this would change with the Industrial Revolution that began in the 1780s in England and would spread all over the world. To work with machines, you have to be schooled. The late beginning of public schools in the Philippines—1863—was therefore not because the friars wanted to keep Filipinos ignorant. It simply was part of a worldwide pattern. Indeed the public school system in the Philippines of 1863 was ahead of that of other Asian countries, except Japan."

No doubt some of the friars were terrible. But even today, which we believe to be a more enlightened age, we read of priests who betray their vocation and cause scandal. But surely there were—and are—good ones, too. The "reduccion," or gathering people in a township "bajo las campanas," made it easier to protect people against coastal Moro raids. It was also the beginning of our urbanization. And how else could one possibly establish any sort of schools without it?

It was also more convenient for one person to learn a language than to teach 50 or 100 people a new tongue, especially if there was only one of you out there. Perhaps Rizal and others suspected 300 years later (as many of us do today) that a people who cannot read the language in a newspaper (English today) or can't understand what is said on CNN are easier to control.

Again according to Dr. Zialcita: "What killed Spanish here was American rule. Spanish had spread in urban centers like Manila by the 1890s. Emilio Jacinto of the Katipunan grew up speaking a Spanish patois."

I am sure Andres Bonifacio spoke it, as did my own grandfather who worked in Diario de Manila and was nowhere near a member of the elite but a typesetter living in Tondo.

It is important, if we are ever going to develop a more objective and questioning attitude, to start with our own history. Not everything you're told is true, but it's up to you to discover what is and what isn't. You owe it to yourself.

# Change

## YOUNG BLOOD

*George Drexl Exiomo*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

SOMETIME ago, someone asked me whether there is hope, a better future, for the Philippines. I get that kind of question all the time—from students, neighbors, childhood friends. I do not pretend to be an expert on the country's prospects, but I do know that the question, the fact that it is being asked, is reason enough to believe there is. People care about the country, our leaders and institutions notwithstanding.

If our leaders cannot read the writing on the wall, let's change them, and let's have the ones who can. It has been our misfortune to have leaders who—despite knowing the ills of the nation, despite enjoying tremendous moral capital to usher in change, despite standing shoulder to shoulder with other leaders of the world—failed miserably to advance a cause. They failed to change the country for the better. It has been very disappointing to have had such leaders and it still is.

When there is a regime change, the new leader embodies hope. The government commands moral authority. It is in this state of things that the nation is allowed to dream and set it sights on better governance, with more confidence.

On the other hand, the new regime lacks an efficient machinery to proceed with change and improvement. The new government will have to operate with the same bureaucracy, the same civil servants who served the previous administration, the same military and police officers, the same judges, the same oligarchs, the same bureaucrats with the same bad habits, who see the regime change as just another chance for making money.

Any political philosopher will say that the goal of a new regime is to mobilize an efficient bureaucracy and make the best of the moral capital it enjoys. After February 1986, the new Philippine government seemed poised to do this. The Presidential Commission on Good Government was created to recover stolen state property. But having no choice but to follow due process, the new government did not confiscate ill-gotten wealth by force of arms. It went to the courts instead. Unfortunately, the courts became a playground where the seasoned defenders of the suspects easily beat fledgling prosecutors. Meanwhile, sequestered property found their way into private pockets.

Marcos fled to Hawaii, died and still waits for his dream burial. Meanwhile, his cronies, some of whom fled with him, have survived, staging appalling comebacks to national life by taking advantage of the chinks in the system, the same system prevailing at the time they fled. They abused due process until the people could not care more about the past. In the wake of stunning setbacks in many a court battle, the government lost its moral capital fast.

The system was not adequate to ferret out the truth about who did what during the dictatorship, to punish those who did wrong. The system was inept, peopled by the same corrupt officials who worked for the dictator, and hence, owed allegiance in varying degrees to the former president and his cronies.

There was no departure from the old regime. There was no real effort to throw light upon the crimes of the former government. Without the truth in the open, there could be no real judgment as to the guilt or innocence of the suspects, quite a number of whom became part of the new government.

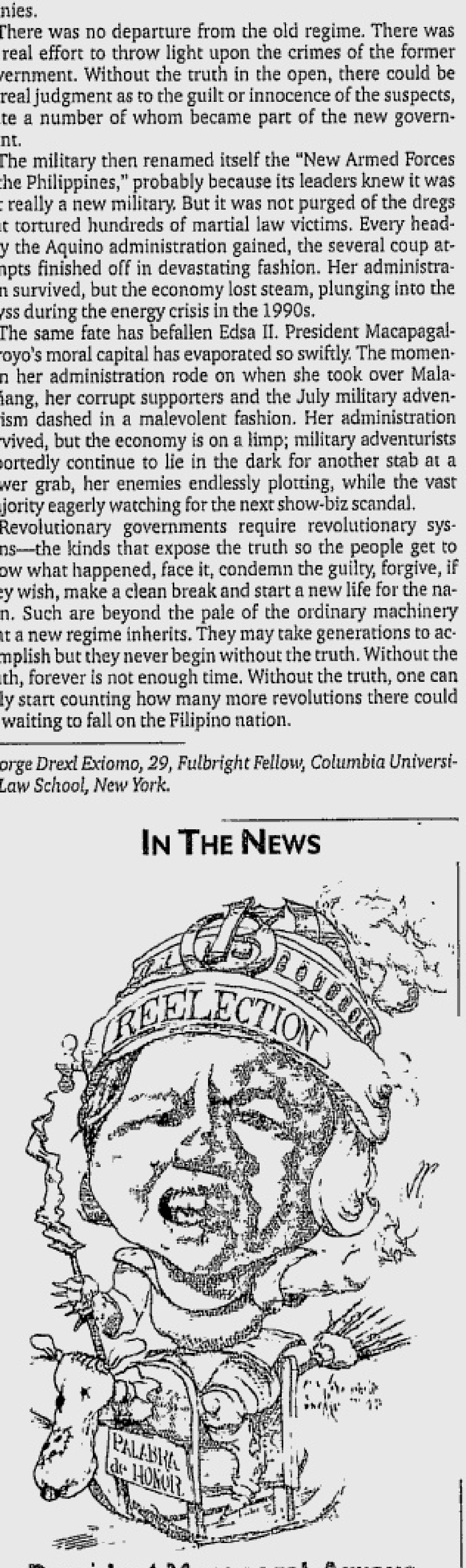
The military then renamed itself the "New Armed Forces of the Philippines," probably because its leaders knew it was not really a new military. But it was not purged of the dregs that tortured hundreds of martial law victims. Every headway the Aquino administration gained, the several coup attempts finished off in devastating fashion. Her administration survived, but the economy lost steam, plunging into the abyss during the energy crisis in the 1990s.

The same fate has befallen Edsa II. President Macapagal-Arroyo's moral capital has evaporated so swiftly. The momentum her administration rode on when she took over Malacañang, her corrupt supporters and the July military adventurism dashed in a malevolent fashion. Her administration survived, but the economy is on a limp; military adventurists reportedly continue to lie in the dark for another stab at a power grab, her enemies endlessly plotting, while the vast majority eagerly watching for the next show-biz scandal.

Revolutionary governments require revolutionary systems—the kinds that expose the truth so the people get to know what happened, face it, condemn the guilty, forgive, if they wish, make a clean break and start a new life for the nation. Such are beyond the pale of the ordinary machinery that a new regime inherits. They may take generations to accomplish but they never begin without the truth. Without the truth, forever is not enough time. Without the truth, one can only start counting how many more revolutions there could be waiting to fall on the Filipino nation.

*George Drexl Exiomo, 29, Fulbright Fellow, Columbia University Law School, New York.*

## IN THE NEWS



President Macapagal-Arroyo

# 'Church' and 'hierarchy'

YOUR editorial (PDI, 9/23/03) says, "To keep the Church from being tainted with scandal, Church leaders often hush up great crimes. Where outrage is called for, they would rather sweep everything under the rug. To protect the Church, they would even protect the worst offenders. And when the scandal does break out, the official Church response is to challenge those who are without sin to cast the first stone."

I agree with you 100 percent. Except for one point: I think we must make a distinction between the "Church" and the "hierarchy." To me, the Church refers to the total people of God, the Body of Christ, the *"corpus Christum mysticum."* The hierarchy refers to the officials composed of the clergy—from the Pope down to the parish priest. What is wrong is with the hierarchy, not with the Church.

Of course the sexual sins of priests and bishops (and even popes!) are not new. History is full of the sordid details of popes who, at the height of their power, would kill and rape and commit adultery—and the lay people are helpless to prevent them. How can we forget such immoral popes as Alexander VI, Urban VII and Boniface VIII? If water cannot rise higher than its source, is it any wonder that we have these sexual immoralities among the clergy these days?

Maybe it is time to relax the ban on priestly celibacy. Although it is not a surefire guarantee against "priests and sinners," having a married clergy might reduce immoralities. Of course, Rome will never consent to married priesthood, for it will lose control on her docile clergyman—and woman.

Let me end by offering my congratulation for your courageous editorial. Having the guts to lecture the Roman Catholic hierarchy on an issue that is bedeviling it worldwide, is an exceptional display of what this newspaper really is: balanced news and fearless views.

**—REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,**
**associate minister,**
**United Church of Christ,**
**Barangay Talinakpor,**
**San Nicolas,**
**Pangasinan 2447**

# AFP further closes ranks after unsettling poll findings

THIS pertains to a Pulse survey result which revealed that 55 percent of Filipinos believe the soldiers who staged the July 27 mutiny in Makati City were justified. Although this figure and the issue itself are of deep concern to the military, we take this as a challenge to further close our ranks to ensure unity and loyalty to the Constitution and the chain of command up to the commander in chief.

The Philippine Army hierarchy assures the public that no mutiny or coup will happen again in the future. The Army's standing policy on loyalty to the chain of command is non-negotiable. Those who breach this policy or demonstrate contempt will face the full force of the law.

While the Pulse survey showed an unsettling figure, we remain united and undaunted in our efforts for the security of the State and our people. The poll result is only indicative of the division caused by the propaganda of some individuals to justify their evil agenda. Disinformation campaigns and rumors of destabilization after the July 27 mutiny are like aftershocks to an earthquake. These charades bear no substance at all.

The result of the Pulse survey is something we do not take for granted, but we cannot afford to fritter our minds with such details. As soldiers, our foremost duty and concern is to protect our people and our Republic and to secure our national sovereignty and integrity.

**—LT. COL. JOSELITO E. KAKILALA, army spokesperson/chief public affairs, Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City**

# Demo-crazy

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

MY American friends, many of whom are California residents, have all been pretty glum following the election of Arnold (Arnie) Schwarzenegger as governor of California. One of them e-mailed me, "Are we going the way of the Philippines?"—a reference to our having elected actors and actresses, basketball players and other mass media celebrities to posts as high as the presidency.

I e-mailed him back immediately, "I beg your pardon. And who taught us to adore celebrities, electing them into public office?"

We Filipinos tend to put ourselves down, blaming "ignorance" and "lack of education" as the reasons why Erap became president. But we forget that the Americans elected actor Ronald Reagan as California governor back in the 1960s, and eventually president of the United States.

It is memories of Reagan's terms as California governor and US president that have gotten my American friends so nervous. Reagan was a conservative Republican who cut back on taxes for upper income brackets, then whittled down spending for social services. There are fears that Arnie, also a Republican, will take a similar course as governor.

But this is not the time to talk about Schwarzenegger's ideological leanings. What we should note here is that the election of celluloid heroes—whether Erap or Arnie—to public office can't be explained simply as a function of "dumb" voters. What needs to be examined here is the way an electoral system of democracy can be manipulated.

We like to believe that having elections is the hallmark of democracy. Yet we've seen, in the United States, the Philippines, India and many other countries, that elections, particularly at the national level, often degenerate into name recall, and never mind the candidates' skills or experience with governance.

So much attention has been focused on action star Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) possibly running for the presidency, and winning. But no one has analyzed why Sen. Noli de Castro has been topping the public opinion polls when it comes to a possible president.

I'm surprised with how well De Castro is doing because his record in the Senate has been rather flat. I cannot recall him sponsoring any bill or resolution of major import. Yet I suspect this low profile in the legislative body is actually part of De Castro's strategy: staying non-controversial, even while building his public image in the broadcasting field, through his weekly program "Magandang Gabi Bayan." In other words, if he ever becomes president, it will not be because of his accomplishments as a public official but because of his still more powerful alter ego, Kabayan Noli.

No wonder our politicians are now taking up the reverse tactic of becoming media celebrities to enhance their political standing, either while still in office or to make a political comeback. Among others, Loren Legarda, Manong Ernie Maceda and Alfredo Lim all have radio and television programs where they can build their constituencies.

"The best argument," Winston Churchill once said, "is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." Perhaps, perhaps. But I would also look into the possibility that people vote for actors and actresses not just because they're dazzled by the stars but because they are now so terribly cynical about politics.

People think of actors and actresses and basketball players as, well, actors and actresses and basketball players. They elect Erap, not Joseph Estrada, and the Terminator rather than Schwarzenegger, and maybe in the future, we will have Kabayan Noli rather than Senator Noli as president. These personalities give people a sense that they're dealing with a benevolent demigod rather than the traditional manipulative politician.

But you know after all's said and done, we really have to question why we've reached this point where we're wondering if we're living in a demo-crazy rather than a democracy, described this way in a text message that has been going around: "Philippine democrazy. Poor the people. Off the people. Buy the people. That's what we have. Philippine democrazy. Gloria Pidal for President."

A "democrazy," whether in the United States or the Philippines, doesn't just happen. Behind the electoral circuses, behind every politician are rich and powerful financiers, particularly from big business. In fact, business backers know that it is often a better investment to support actors (if you can call Schwarzenegger one) and actresses, who come with a ready-made bloc of voters.

Where does all this leave Tita Gloria? She knows she has to play the spin game, and boy, does she try. But there are limits to what mass media and spin doctors can do, even when they try to have her bask in the reflected glory of God, the Pope, Bush and Cardinal Sin. That is why we need to be so much more vigilant. So lacking in sincerity and in telegenic qualities, but harboring an incredible hulk of an ambition, there's a strong possibility Tita Gloria will resort more and more to Terminator tactics to win in 2004. Crazy or not, what's left of our democratic institutions are at least keeping her reined in—for now.

* * *

*Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net*

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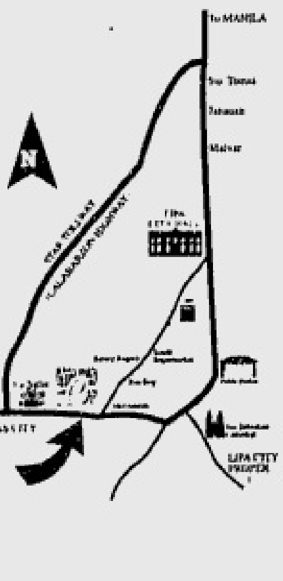

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*Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

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# Rebs attack Naga cop station

**LEGAZPI CITY—After two separate encounters in Camarines Norte last week, which resulted to the death of a woman New People's Army member, about 50 armed men suspected to be NPA rebels stormed the San Lorenzo Ruiz police station in the same province on Sunday night.**

Police Bicol director Chief Supt. Jaime Lasar said the NPA rebels swooped down on the station at around 9:45 p.m. but the 11 policemen on duty, including Insp. Rogelio Beraquit, San Lorenzo police chief, fought back fiercely for more than two hours.

PO2 Ireneo Mendoza, who first opened fire upon seeing the attacking rebels, suffered minor injuries from broken window glasses, while SPO4 Elmer Ramores was also hit by shrapnel of a grenade launched from an M203 rifle.

The police station's service vehicle and a private motorcycle were burned when a rifle grenade fired by the rebels hit the garage of the station.

No one was killed on the government side.

The gunmen withdrew toward different directions when reinforcement from police and Army units immediately arrived.

Lasar reported that government troops recovered two live ammunition of M203 rifle and anti-government documents.

He instructed all municipal police stations in the area to be on guard and conduct checkpoints, especially in areas where the rebels possibly retreated to.

Prior to the attack, the Bravo Company of the Army's 31st Infantry Brigade headed by 1Lt. Omar Hagada twice encountered the rebels late last week in San Vicente and San Lorenzo Ruiz towns.

The government soldiers killed a rebel and recovered six high-powered firearms in the two encounters in Sitio Lomanti, Barangay Iraya Sur, San Lorenzo Ruiz town and Barangay Calabagas in San Vicente on Thursday and Saturday morning.

In the Thursday clash, soldiers recovered three M-16 rifles, a .45-cal. pistol, seven backpacks and communist documents.

Col. Ruben Rafael, commanding officer of the 902nd Infantry Brigade, said the Army men killed a woman rebel in the Saturday clash and recovered two more firearms. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Reb hurt in clash dies in hospital

OZAMIZ CITY—One more communist guerrilla died Saturday morning in a hospital here, bringing to four the number of rebel casualties in an armed encounter with government troops in nearby Tangub City Thursday.

This developed as a rebel spokesperson in the Western Mindanao region denied that a teenager casualty during the Thursday gunfight was a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

Adan Sindapan, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Western Mindanao, said Michael Zoelo was a son of an NPA sympathizer in the area and not a combatant as previously claimed.

In a press statement, he identified the NPA casualties only as Ka Jack and Ka Jerry. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Lawyer on Javier killing: I'm clean

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

SAN JOSE, Antique—The lawyer and co-accused of former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador yesterday denied his involvement in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier on Feb. 11, 1986.

Testifying for the first time in the 17-year-old case, lawyer Avelino Javellana belied testimony of prosecution witnesses that he presided over a meeting with Javier's alleged gunmen to discuss plans to kill the former governor.

Javellana said Pacificador acquired his services as legal counsel to represent him in the provincial canvassing of votes during the elections for the Batasang Pambansa in 1984 and in the snap presidential elections in February 1986. He said he had a "purely lawyer-client relationship" with Pacificador.

Pacificador, a close ally of then President Ferdinand Marcos, was identified as the alleged mastermind of the Javier killing.

Javellana, who served as his own lawyer, said he was at the provincial capitol observing the canvassing of votes on Feb.7-11, 1986.

After the shooting, Javellana said he requested then Lt. Col. Alfredo Daluyaya, provincial Philippine Constabulary commander, for police escort to the provincial police camp in Pugante Point here and then to Pacificador's residence in Lapaz in Hamtic town.

Javellana said they picked up Pacificador's son Rodolfo at the office of the Department of Public Works and Highways before proceeding to Hamtic.

Accused-turned-witness Arleen Limoso testified that Javellana met with Eduardo Iran alias Boy Muslim on the evening of Feb. 10, 1986, the eve of Javier's killing, inside Pacificador's rest house in Taringting in Barangay Funda-Dalipe here.

Iran, who remains at large, has been tagged as the leader of the armed group that killed Javier and wounded four others.

Limoso said he saw Javellana again a few hours after Javier's killing with Rodolfo in Pacificador's house in Lapaz where Iran and his group went after Javier's killing. Limoso claimed he saw Javellana give a thumbs-up sign to Iran.

# 9 suspected victims of NPA purge found

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police yesterday unearthed the skeletal remains of nine still unidentified persons in what residents in the area said was a New People's Army mass grave in Barangay Panalaban, Majayjay, Laguna.

Town police chief Senior Insp. Ariel Gongona said Isagani Vito, a member of the local Civilian Auxiliary Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), relayed the information about the mass grave.

Gongona quoted Vito as saying residents in the area revealed the presence of the "killing field" of NPA rebels operating in the hinterlands of Southern Tagalog.

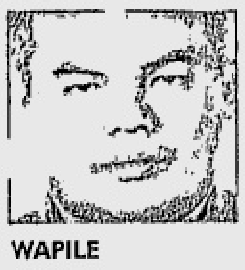
After receiving the information from Vito, police immediately sought help from the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion based in nearby Luisiana town.

Police found several human remains in the shallow grave. Initial investigation disclosed that the remains belonged to nine individuals who apparently died of bullet wounds.

Gongona said they were validating reports if the remains indeed belonged to victims of a communist purge.

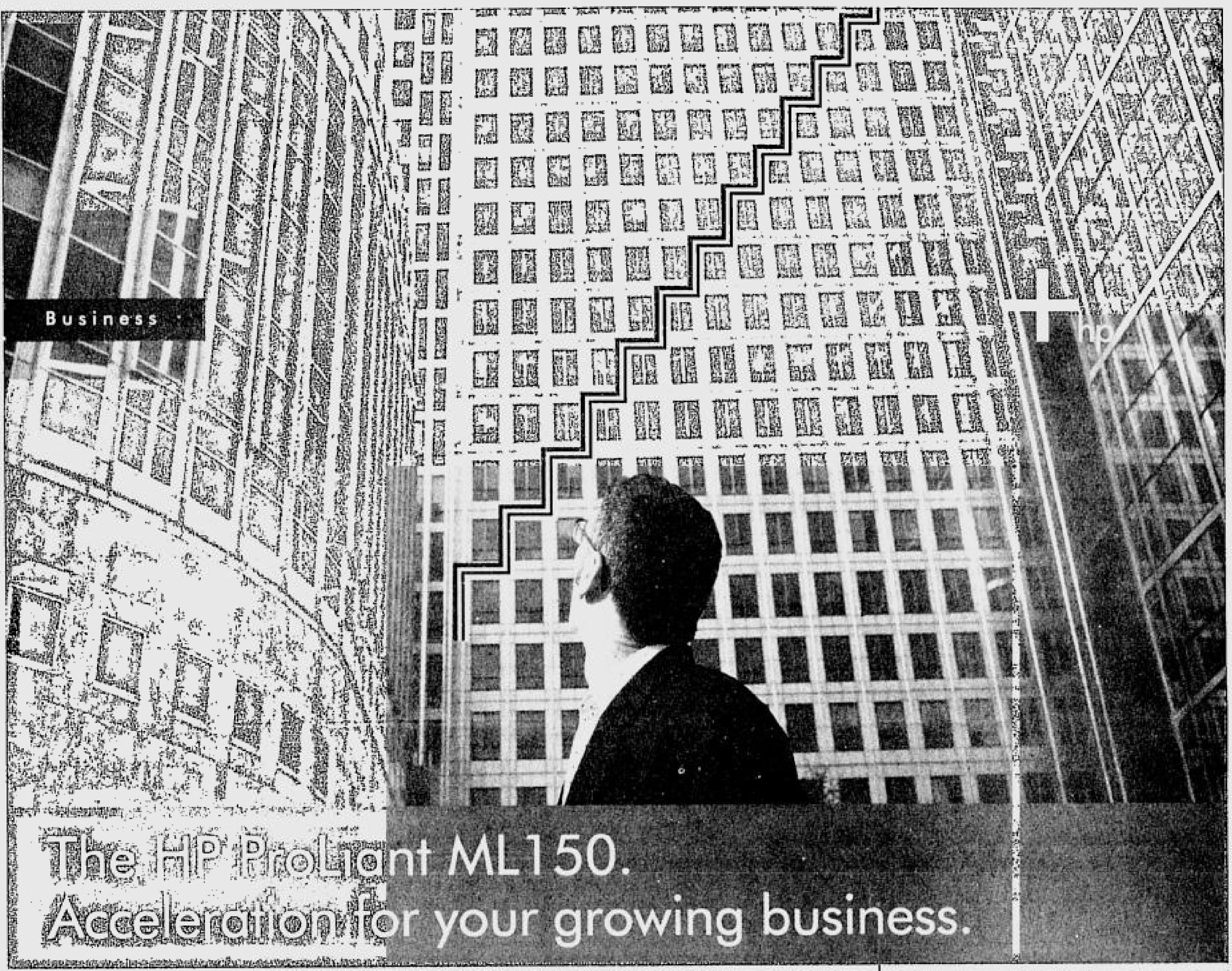
He said they have already sent the bones to authorities for autopsy. Police said the NPA rebels used to maintain a confinement camp in the area during the height of the communist purge in the late 1980s. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 519 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.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For registration, please contact PANA office at 8995671/8995691/8902989 to 91.

ADVT

# Lawmakers bloc in North to back common '04 bet

CANDON CITY—Members of the Northern Luzon Alliance (NLA) at the House of Representatives have decided to rally behind a common presidential candidate for the 2004 elections.

"It was the consensus of the bloc to unite behind one presidential bet regardless of our political parties," said Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, NLA president.

The 29-member bloc is composed of representatives from Cagayan Valley, Cordillera and Ilocos regions. These regions have a combined four million voters.

Singson said they have yet to decide on whom to support but said the decision to support a common candidate would demonstrate the unity of northern Luzon leaders and restore the North's influence in running the affairs of the country.

"The Ilocanos before were well respected and had a strong say in management of the government because they were solid and united," Singson said.

He said of the 29 members of the NLA, only House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya and Rep. Imee Marcos of Ilocos Norte have expressed reservations on the plan to support a common candidate because of their respective plans to run for the Senate.

Singson said their chosen candidate must be sympathetic to the Ilocanos' cause and should have concrete plans to solve the economic problems of the country.

Singson said among their major concerns is the settlement of the country's foreign debt.

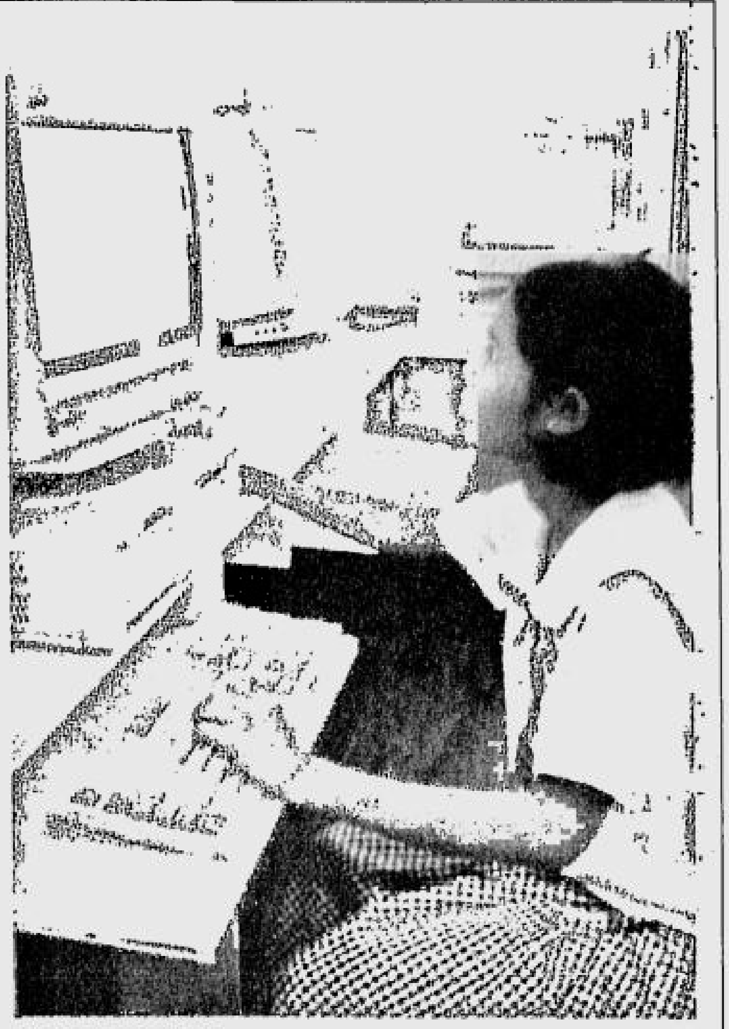
"If the next leader would not do something quick and appropriate the government would go bankrupt," Singson said.

He said the NLA would announce their chosen candidate immediately after the deadline for the filing of candidacies for next year's elections.

It was uncertain whether the alliance would support the administration or the opposition during the elections.

The administration's Lakas-CMD has declared President Macapagal-Arroyo to be its standard-bearer in the 2004 presidential elections but Ms Macapagal has yet to choose who her candidate for vice president should be.

Several names have been mentioned as opposition candidates including Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and actor Fernando Poe Jr. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



**TECH PLUNGE** BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
**A pupil of the Tomas Monteverde Elementary School in Davao City tries out one of the computers that had been donated to her school in a bid to introduce the children to the wonders of computer technology.**

# DepEd exec draws 70 yrs for graft

LAOAG CITY—A records officer of the Department of Education was sentenced to 70 years in prison for squeezing almost P100,000 from seven applicants in exchange for their appointments as public school teachers.

Candido Miguel, records officer of the DepEd office in the city, drew 10 years for each of the seven cases filed against him under Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Judge Philip Salvador of the regional trial court here also ordered Miguel to return the amount he had demanded from the seven complainants who paid separate amounts ranging from P7,000 to P16,000.

The complainants, now teachers at the Ilocos Norte National High School, were also awarded P210,000 in moral claims and P50,000 in lawyer's fees.

The court, in a decision on Oct. 6, also disqualified Miguel from holding any public office.

Miguel figured in a teacher-for-sale scam that rocked the DepEd more than four years ago. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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# Energy agency accused of ignoring ₱640M in overcharges

ENRILE

MAUBAN, Quezon—Former senator Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday accused the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of turning a blind eye on the overcharging of at least P640 million in power charges in 50 franchise areas in Luzon and Metro Manila.

In a dialogue with electric consumers here, Enrile said the amount overcharged was based on the admission itself that ERC chair Manuel Sanchez made in reply to letters sent by Enrile.

In a statement, Enrile said based on admission made by Sanchez, Napocor charged the Manila Electric Co. only P2.15 per kwh but based on computations, Meralco's independent power suppliers like First Gas in Batangas and Quezon provinces are charging P4.88 per kwh.

Data furnished by the ERC, Enrile said, showed that the average cost of power generation was only P3.30.

"Why was Meralco allowed by the ERC to charge P3.4052 or P0.11 per kwh higher?," he asked.

Enrile said this translates into P220 million a month in overcharges.

"This is an atrocious and unconscionable overprice being charged to hapless consumers especially the poor and despite the fact that scarce government funds and huge foreign borrowings amounting to millions of dollars are being used to subsidize the Napocor rate," Enrile said.

Enrile urged Sanchez in an Oct. 9 letter to be more forthright on the many charges being slapped to consumers by Meralco as he pointed out disparities on the true rate that must be paid by consumers.

In his letter to Sanchez, Enrile also pointed out that Meralco charges consumers amounts for systems loss that are equivalent to 16 percent of the generation charge, Enrile said.

"We cannot think of any reason why this should be substantially higher than 9.5 percent. There should be no systems loss on transmission charges because systems loss obviously refers only to generation costs on the system. Meralco's allowance for own-use electricity should not be more than 1 percent," Enrile said.

Enrile said Meralco earns through "evident overcharging an equivalent of P0.217 per kwh or P420 million per month."

Enrile also took exception to the claim of Sanchez that the unbundling of the generation charge into two components—Napocor's and Meralco's—will result in undue administrative burden on Meralco. *Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### 6 wounded in blast

BAYBAY, Leyte—Six persons were wounded on Tuesday when a man scorned by his girlfriend lobbed a fragmentation grenade at the bus terminal here. The suspect, Mark Kalipayan Ruben, 26, is now detained at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology here. Wounded were Coast Guard employee Rodrigo Tabudlong, 49; Jose Arradaza, Chino Bacalso, Rizaliza Roca, Felisa Diaz and Ria Mae Rosales. Police said Ruben had a heated argument with his girlfriend Ivy Dumaguing Esperenza at about 11:30 p.m. at the town's bus terminal. When Tabudlong reportedly intervened, Ruben got angry and threw the grenade at him and his group. The suspect fled but was arrested the next day. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Anti-drug campaign

LEGAZPI CITY—Police have cleared 132 Bicol barangays of drug syndicates from June to September, according to Bicol police director Chief Supt. Jaime Lasar. This is 73 percent of 181 drug-affected barangays in the region. The Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon police offices seized a combined total of P512,200 worth of shabu during the period. "We will never allow drug syndicates to prosper in this region," Lasar said.
*Joanna Los Baños, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Trains run over 2 persons

LUCENA CITY—Two drunken persons were killed when they were run over by trains in separate incidents last week. Police said Noel Lafrades, 21, resident of Barangay Silangang Malicboy, Pagbilao, Quezon was run over by a southbound Philippine National Railway train at about 9:50 p.m. Monday. No foul play was observed on the victim's remains, police said. On Tuesday, Jayson Delima Alago, 30, of Barangay Hinguin, Padre Burgos was found dead in the railroad track in the said village. The victim was on his way home, heavily drunk, but fell asleep at the PNR track. A Bicol-bound train ran over him, police said.
*Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Bicol traders warned

LEGAZPI CITY—An Army official in Bicol has warned businessmen who continue to give in to the demand of the New People's Army, especially for revolutionary tax. Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino, commanding officer of the 901st Infantry Brigade based in Barangay Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, said during a forum of the Albay-Legazpi Press Association in this city that those found supporting the rebels should be punished. "This has to be stopped. This is a clear impediment to our economic growth," Magsino said.
*Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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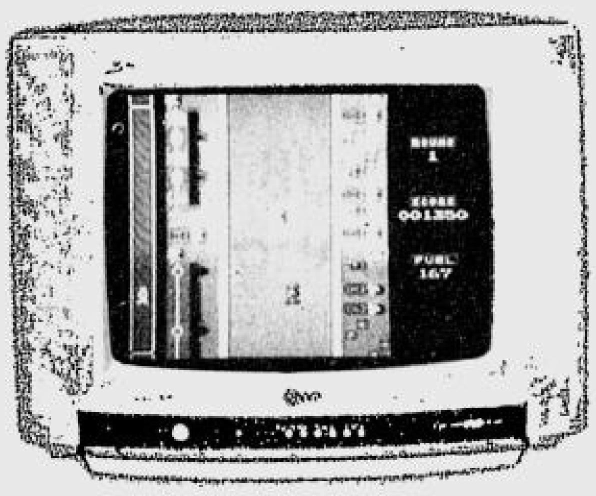

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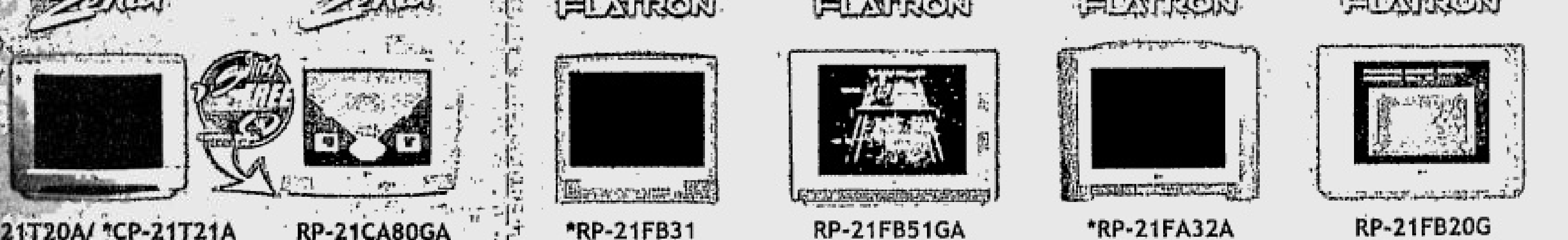

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**IN COLD BLOOD** A crowd gathers around the body of Rodrigo Borgonia, chair of Barangay Pansol in Quezon City, shortly after he was shot and killed in front of the barangay hall (see story below).
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# Dengue cases on the rise in Valenzuela

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

VALENZUELA officials yesterday declared that the entire city is in a state of calamity after they noted a surge in dengue cases.

The city council passed the resolution last week after a number of barangay officials expressed alarm over the increasing number of cases in their areas.

The number of dengue cases in Valenzuela City this year has reached 381, with still three months to go before the year ends. In 2001, only 297 cases were recorded, while 306 cases were recorded last year. Six people have died of dengue in the city this year.

Based on records from the City Health Office, Barangay Marulas is the most severely hit with 108 cases this year, including three deaths. Barangay Gen. T. De Leon has 38 recorded cases, Caruhatan has 20, while Malinta has 10.

City Health officer Antonio Olegario told the INQUIRER yesterday that most of the cases involved children. He added that the number of dengue cases started to rise in July, when the rainy season set in.

Mosquitoes that breed in clear water spread dengue fever.

Olegario said the presence of abandoned warehouses and factories in Valenzuela had contributed to the outbreak of dengue in the city.

Olegario said symptoms include high temperature, headache, pain around the eyes and eventually the appearance of skin rashes.

He also warned patients not to take aspirin for the fever, as the medicine could affect the bleeding tendencies brought on by dengue.

City officials have already set up a dengue action center in Marulas.

## METROBRIEFS

### Gunned down

RODRIGO Borgonia, 48, chair of Barangay Pansol, Quezon City, yesterday morning was gunned down before he could deliver a speech to his constituents. At least six armed men stormed the barangay hall on N. Perez Street and shot Borgonia in the head at around 7:30 a.m. Investigators said that after the initial salvo, one of the suspects pumped a bullet in the victim's chest to make sure he was dead. Another suspect then took the victim's cell phone and 9-mm caliber pistol. The gunmen then fled on board a stolen Toyota FX van (TWL 943), police said. Residents told police that Borgonia had a run-in with drug pushers in the area. *Tina Santos*

### Dogs find dead man

BARKING dogs woke up Alfredo Dalmacio and his son, Edgardo, on Sunday morning and led them to the body of a dead man in Malabon City. Dalmacio told the police that when they went to their veranda to see why the dogs were barking at 2 a.m., they found a dead man by the creek near their house on Jacinto Street, Barangay Ibaba, Malabon. When barangay security men Daniel Espiritu and Noel dela Cruz arrived, they recognized the victim as one of their own—Gerardo Escano, 32. PO2 Bobb Egera yesterday said the victim was killed in front of Dalmacio's house, based on bloodstains in the area.
*Edson Tandoc Jr.*

### Woman cut up

DAPHNE Dimain on Sunday used a cutter to attack Wilma Manansala, 22, in Makati City. Manansala, who works as a model in a nightclub, allegedly went to the Cristina Apartelle on Constancia Street, Barangay Olympia to visit a friend, Mary Ann Salazar. SPO2 Juancho Ibis said Salazar had invited the two women to her apartment to talk over a personal issue concerning her boyfriend. Salazar told police that as she was talking to Manasala, Dimain barged in and attacked the victim. But Dimain, also a model, said that had she not "made the first move," Manansala and Salazar would "have ganged up" on her. *Christine Paita*

### Beds on fire

A FIRE on Sunday broke out at a bed factory in Caloocan City and destroyed more than P10 million worth of property. The fire began at 12:50 p.m. on the fourth floor of ACR Furniture factory, city fire station chief Agapito Nacario said. Two employees—Amalia Crusillo and Julius Macasinag—were injured. Nacario said firefighters found it difficult to get to the factory because of the narrow alleys leading to the compound. But he said heavy rains that afternoon helped douse the flames. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

**FOUR DIGIT**
9 6 2 8
(In exact order)

**SUERTRES**
3 4 1

**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
13 21 24 32 35 45

# METRO

**E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

## Cops in 'planting' case lying

**ON TARGET**
*Ramon Tulfo*

OVER the years, this is what I've learned from expert crime investigators: you can tell if suspects, complainants or witnesses are lying when they lack spontaneity in narrating facts, they are inconsistent in their statements, and their body language tells the true story.

I saw all those characteristics in the Quezon City policemen who were summoned yesterday by the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs while fielding questions from the committee.

The cops were groping for words not because they were inarticulate in English—*hindi pa kasi nag-Tagalog*—but also because they were trying to make their statements of facts match with one another.

* * *

The policemen who arrested electrician-mechanic Ricardo Romualdo for alleged drug pushing could not get their act together. They became a laughingstock at the hearing.

For example, when PO1 Rupert Vergara was asked by committee member Sen. Rodolfo Biazon who shot Romualdo, Vergara answered: "*Ang baril ko po* (My gun)."

Vergara shot Romualdo even if he was already in handcuffs and he was with five other arresting officers. He said that some of Romualdo's neighbors tried to grab the gun tucked at his waist and it went off. To which Biazon commented: "If that was so, then the gun could have blasted your bird."

* * *

PO2 Rey Cayabyab, leader of the arresting team, could not explain why they didn't coordinate with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Administration (PDEA) before making the "buy-bust" operation against Romualdo. Cops who carry out "buy-bust" jobs are now required to inform the PDEA beforehand.

Cayabyab had to admit after being cornered that they "failed" to do that.

Cayabyab was sweating and fidgety and so were his companions: Vergara, PO2 Procopio Acueza, PO2 Edgar Mendoza, PO2 Gullen Belen and PO2 Edilberto Alonzo.

* * *

Supt. Efren Sta. Ines, Station 9 chief, the cops' superior, said they didn't inform him before they undertook the supposed "buy-bust" job.

Vergara placed their immediate supervisor, Insp. Lee Allen Bauding, in a bad light when he said he didn't inform Bauding about the results of a surveillance job he conducted on Romualdo because the report "might leak."

"You mean, you were afraid that Bauding might leak your report to him?" said Biazon.

* * *

I doff my hat to Senator Biazon for grilling the cops. It was because of the senator's questioning that the policemen were caught lying.

Aside from Barbers, who presided over the hearing since he's the committee chair, Biazon was the only member who attended.

I have heard Biazon was one senator who attended every hearing of all committees where he's a member without exception. I confirmed that yesterday.

Where were the other members of the Barbers committee? Perhaps they thought that since Romualdo was an insignificant personality why should they waste their time attending the hearing.

* * *

**While I was writing this column, I was listening to the privilege speech of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his third on the supposed "Jose Pidal" exposé, on the radio.**

There was nothing new in his supposed exposé. Everything was a rehash of his first and second installments.

As in the first and second installments, the good senator did not present any evidence to support his accusations.

* * *

I suggest his handlers advise Lacson to go to a speech clinic where he can learn how to deliver a speech.

His sing-song delivery matches his hip-swaying. For a former military man he sounds like a "fairy" homosexual.

He sounded like he was about to completely succumb to his gender preferences. In Tagalog, *parang malapit na siyang magladlad.*

## PGH cuts admission of emergency cases

**By Blanche Rivera**

IF THE situation is not life threatening, do not bring your patients to the Philippine General Hospital.

The country's premier hospital for the poor has cut by half its admission rate of emergency cases.

The cutdown began two weeks ago when the emergency room was closed due to renovation work being done there now.

The renovation would last between four and six months. At the moment, a makeshift emergency room has been set up, but PGH authorities said they would only admit very critical cases.

Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, chair of the PGH department of emergency medicine, said the government received a $13.3 million loan from the Spanish government for the modernization of the PGH.

About half of the loan would be spent to renovate the emergency room while the rest would be used to buy modern facilities and ambulances.

More than 500 new devices, including ultrasound and x-ray machines, ventilators and other equipment for the intensive care unit, would be installed in the hospital, Herbosa said.

He added that the temporary closure of the emergency room would be a small sacrifice compared to the improvement of the hospital's facilities.

"So we're asking the people not to come here anymore and just bring their patients to other hospitals because we will accept only those that are in life-threatening conditions," Herbosa said in an interview at the PGH yesterday.

Herbosa said the staff had to turn down at least half of the patients that come to the hospital everyday. The PGH usually admits around 150 people in its emergency room daily.

He said they could give referral letters to patients so they could go to other government hospitals.

The PGH is coordinating with the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng Maynila, Ospital ng Tondo, Las Piñas District Hospital, Parañaque Community Hospital and Pasay General Hospital for the admission of those that could not be treated at the PGH.

"This used to be like a war zone before, but when this is finished, the poor could get better treatment than in private hospitals," Herbosa said.

## Metro 'coverups' to be removed

**By Margaux Ortiz**

EVEN Metro Manila's "unsightly" places will benefit from United States President George W. Bush's visit.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday told a press conference in Makati City that they would be removing all obstructions covering the metropolis' "depressed areas" to make these places commercially viable.

"When a guest as distinguished as President Bush arrives in the country, our first instinct is to hide everything embarrassing to us," Fernando said.

He explained that the beams and fences which were constructed under the previous administrations to conceal unsightly structures from the public are presently using up space on the sidewalks.

He also said the obstructions prevent the growth of small businesses in these areas.

He added that by improving the appearance of the area, the residents' businesses will become more profitable.

Fernando said that as the residents' livelihoods flourish, their houses and buildings would also improve.

The MMDA chair also said that with the removal of the obstructions, they would widen the easements and construct parking spaces for the businesses' customers.

Fernando added that aside from opening up the depressed areas, they are constructing signages for motorists and repairing gutters and roads in preparation for Bush's visit.

He said the budget for the repairs would be taken from the P10 million allotted for the sprucing up of the "visitors' route" with plants and flowers.

He also said the MMDA will maintain its traffic management programs during Bush's visit, including the regular deployment of personnel along major thoroughfares.

Fernando added that MMDA personnel would not be allowed to be absent from work during the state visit to maximize manpower capability.

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGISTS, INC. 1964

The Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.
19th ANNUAL CONVENTION
October 17 - 18, 2003
Theme" "Controversy and Consensus in Cancer Care"

MESSAGES

I send my cordial greetings to the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. on its 19th Annual Convention with the theme, "Controversy and Consensus in Cancer Care." Your continued service manifests your steadfast commitment in updating yourselves with the latest trends and issues in the proper diagnosis and treatment of cancer. In addressing the concerns related to such a prevalent and debilitating disease, you help ensure that every Filipino will have a healthy and productive life.

Let us work hand in hand in delivering quality healthcare services for our countrymen, especially the poor and the needy. Together, I am confident that we can build a nation that makes a difference in the lives of its citizens.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Oncologists, as they hold their 19th Annual Convention. I laud your group's efforts in highlighting the importance of recognizing the nuances and complexities of treating and managing cancer in these particularly challenging times as tacitly expressed in your theme, "Controversy and Consensus in Cancer Care." This likewise connotes your proactive stance and unrelenting efforts to promote novel and more appropriate evidence-based conditions.

I hope that this convention will help resolve the many issues attendant to these concerns and may this contribute towards achieving our collective goal of producing responsible, productive, morally upright and healthy citizens for the betterment of our country

Let this event then be a venue for a meaningful sharing of vital information and innovative ideas as you aim to reach a consensus on how to further strengthen the role of oncologists in meeting the health needs of our people, with the ultimate goal of improving the delivery of quality yet affordable specialty care to our people, especially the poor and the underserved

Manuel M. Dayrit
MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

With the rigorous research and rapid developments in cancer, variances in medical practice and discrepancies *vis a vis* the 'state-of-the-art' are inevitable.

This year, the Philippine Society of Oncologists' convention theme "Controversy and Consensus in Cancer Care" addresses these differences. With the view of clearing some cobwebs in our minds, and in the hope of bridging the perceived gaps, foreign and local experts will discuss some of the issues on cancer diagnosis, surgical and medical approaches, and ethical dilemmas.

"Perception"- in the words of a favorite author-philosopher Anthony de Mello, S.J. - "is made clear when it is disengaged from preconceptions and from all considerations of personal loss or gain. Then the miraculous is seen and the heart is filled with wonder."

Through the eyes of our collective scientific experience, and in the spirit of open-mindedness and humility, we look forward to an exciting and enlightening convention.

Let our hearts be filled with wonder.

Ebarcellana-Nuqui MD
ELIZABETH Y. ARCELLANA-NUQUI, MD
President, PSO

Coming up with an annual convention is never easy. There will be meetings, more meetings and more meetings. But with the dedicated people working in the organizing committee, my being overall Chairman was a breeze. Thanks to everyone who worked hard for this convention!

The theme 'Controversy and Consensus in Cancer Care' cannot be more fitting and relevant. Indeed, even today, we are beset by controversial issues in the care of patients with cancer. We in the organizing committee believe that both sides of the coins should be presented when we talk of controversial issues

So, we have laid out the topics from the time the cancer is diagnosed, to management issues up to the end-of-life care and advanced directives.

We hope this will be quite a stimulating scientific affair. Encountering those same problems in daily practice puts us on the spot. Let this year's convention bring out the consensus that we all are looking for in the care of our patients.

Francis O. Javier
FRANCIS O. JAVIER, MD
Vice President and Overall Chairman
19th Annual Convention

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

PRE-CONVENTION
Thursday, October 16, 2003

6:30 pm Isla Ballroom 1 & 2
Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
Miriam Joy C. Calaguas, MD
*Chairperson, Radiation Oncology Department St. Luke's Medical Center*
*(Corporate Affairs Division St. Luke's Medical Center)*
Bhadrasain Vikram, MD
*International Atomic Energy Agency*

DAY 1, Friday, October 17, 2003

7:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
8:45 - 9:00 OPENING CEREMONIES
Isla Ballroom 2

9:00 - 9:05 INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER
Elizabeth Y. Arcellana-Nuqui, MD

9:05 - 9:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Solita C. Monsod
*Professor School of Economics, Univ. of the Phils*

9:40 - 10:00 OPENING OF EXHIBITS . Palawan Room

10:00 - 10:30 Plenary Lecture Isla Ballroom 2
The Cancer Burden in Developing Countries and the Role of IAEA
Bhadrasain Vikram, MD
*International Atomic Energy Agency*

10:30 - 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

SYMPOSIUM I: CONTROVERSY AND CONSENSUS IN CANCER DIAGNOSIS
Isla Ballroom 2

10:45 - 11:05 Tumor Immunohistochemistry: What to Use or What's the Use?
Januario D. Veloso, MD
*Senior Lecturer & Clinical Associate Professor University of the Philippines College of Medicine*

11:05 - 11:25 Borderline Lesions: Diagnosis and Clinical Response
Francisco V. Narciso, MD
*Director, Institute of Pathology St. Luke's Medical Center*

11:25 - 11:45 Screening for Recurrence
Victor Ernesto D. Yosuico, MD
*Associate Professor in Medical Oncology U.P. College of Medicine*

11:45 - 12:00 OPEN FORUM
*Chairperson:* Nelia S. Tan-Liu, MD
*Co-chair:* Charity V. Gorospe, MD

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM Isla Ballroom 3
New Trends for Opioids in the Treatment of Chronic Pain
Marco Ermini, MD
*International Medical Director Mundipharma (ADP PHARMA)*

1:30 - 2:30 BUSINESS MEETING .. Boracay Room 1 & 2
ELECTION Camiguin Room

SYMPOSIUM II: CONTROVERSY IN ORGAN PRESERVATION ... Isla Ballroom 2

2:30 - 2:50 Breast Preservation vs. Mastectomy
Diana B. Cua, MD
*Breast Surgeon Makati Medical Center*

2:50 - 3:10 Limb Salvage vs. Amputation
Rafael S. Claudio, MD
*Head, Musculoskeletal Tumor Unit Philippine Orthopaedic Center*

3:10 - 3:20 COFFEE BREAK

3:20 - 3:40 Voice Preservation vs. Laryngectomy
William L. Lim, MD
*Assistant Professor in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Hospital of the Infant Jesus*

3:40 - 4:00 Bladder Preservation vs. Radical Surgery
Ponciano M. Bernardo, Jr., MD
*President, Phil. Urology Center of the Phils., Inc.*

4:00 - 4:20 OPEN FORUM
*Chairman:* Jonathan M. Asprer, MD
*Co-chair:* Domingo E. Ganzon, MD

4:20 - 5:15 Updates and Controversies in the Management of Prostate Cancer
Reynaldo C. dela Cruz, MD
*President, Philippine Society of Urological Oncologists (Marketlink)*
Isla Ballroom 2

6:00 PM FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
Isla Ballroom 1

DAY 2, Saturday, October 18, 2003

7:00 AM REGISTRATION

7:00 - 8:00 BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM
Kelly Sly Salvador, MD
*Consultant, Phil. Cancer Society (HealthDigit Phils., Inc.)* Boracay Room

8:30 - 10:00 PSO-Unilab Research Paper Contest
Isla Ballroom 2

SYMPOSIUM III: MEDICAL CONTROVERSIES
Isla Ballroom 2

10:00 - 10:20 Treatment without Histologic Confirmation
Priscilla B. Caguioa, MD
*Director, Cancer Institute St. Luke's Medical Center*

10:20 - 10:40 Early Chemotherapy vs. Best Supportive Care in Metastatic Disease
Beatrice J. Tiangco, MD
*President, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology*

10:40 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 11:20 Alternative Medicine: To Complement or To Substitute?
Francisco V. Navarro V, MD
*Medical Acupuncture and Alternative Medicine St. Luke's Medical Center*

11:20 - 11:40 Marrow Transplantation in an Impoverished Nation
Francisco Vicente F. Lopez, MD
*Head, Bone Marrow Transplant Program Asian Hospital & Medical Center*

11:40 - 12:00 OPEN FORUM
*Chairperson:* Corazon A. Ngelangel, MD
*Co-chair:* Leo Y. Marbella, MD

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM ... Isla Ballroom 3
The Role of Eicosapentenoic Acid in the Management of Cancer Cachexia
Romulo S. de Villa, MD, Ph D
*President, Molecular Oncology Society of the Philippines (HCD ABBOTT)*

SYMPOSIUM IV: ETHICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL DILEMMAS Isla Ballroom 2

2:00 - 2:30 Psychosocial Burden of Cancer
Revathi Vikram, MD
*Past President, American Psychiatric Association, Westchester County, New York*

2:30 - 3:00 End-of-life Issues: Euthanasia and Advanced Directives
Marita V.T. Reyes, MD
*Chancellor, University of the Philippines, Manila*

3:00 - 3:30 OPEN FORUM
Chairman: Augusto M. Manalo, MD
Co-chair: Antonio C. Sison, MD

3:30 - 5:00 TUMOR BOARD CONTEST
Isla Ballroom 3

6:00 PM INDUCTION AND CLOSING CEREMONIES
Isla Ballroom 1 & 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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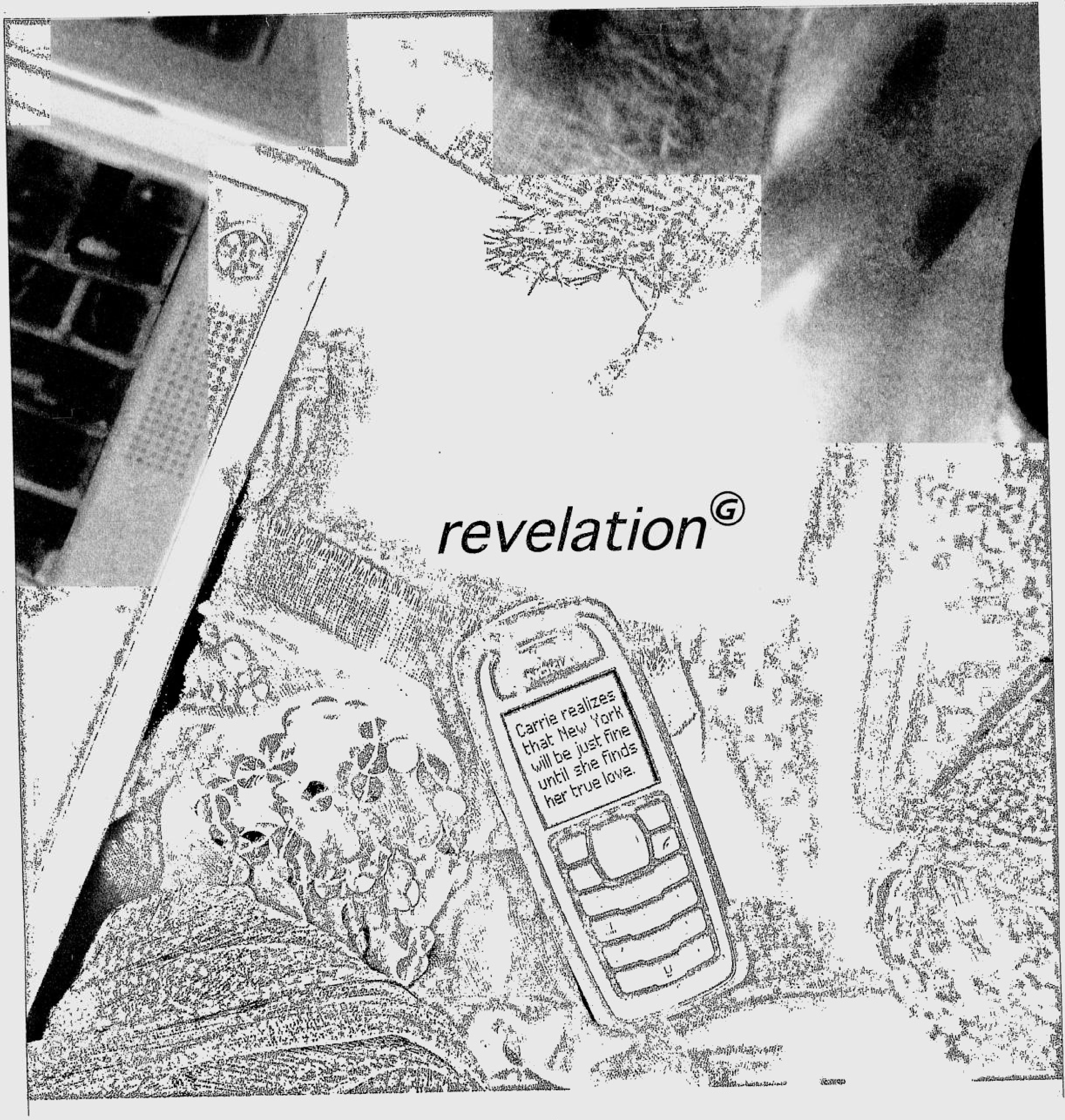
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# GAB clears Limpot in drug mess

**LIMPOT: Exonerated from the drug abuse charge.** JOAN BONDOC

By June Navarro

JUN LIMPOT is clean after all.

The Games and Amusements Board, in a resolution signed by chair Eduardo Villanueva, has cleared Limpot, the Barangay Ginebra power forward, of involvement from the drug mess which hit the Philippine Basketball Association a few months ago, according to GAB sources.

"The professional regulatory body has reversed the ruling of the PBA declaring Limpot as a drug delinquent for failing in a mandatory drug test conducted by the league in May," according to the 11-page resolution dated Sept. 28.

"The action of the PBA finding appellant positive for the use of shabu and imposing the penalty of immediate and indefinite suspension is hereby reversed and set aside," the GAB decision said.

"Petitioner-appellant is hereby exonerated from the charge of drug use," it added.

Limpot, declared by the PBA as having tested positive for prohibited drugs along with seven other players, was suspended for three months since June.

The GAB also said the PBA failed to give the 6-foot-6 power forward due process when PBA Commissioner Noli Eala publicly announced the league's findings on Limpot after the mandatory tests.

The GAB added that Limpot was also deprived of his basic salary worth about P500,000 a month for three months.

Meanwhile, the absence of the master list is hampering efforts by the Philippine Basketball Association to fully account for the memorabilia they borrowed from the league's 25 greatest players and displayed in a series of exhibits three years ago.

PBA media bureau staff Hazel Ancheta said they failed to find the master list, which could identify the players and their priceless mementos.

Ancheta, who had a direct hand in gathering the memorabilia during the PBA's 25th anniversary in 2000, told the league they transferred everything under the care of the Philippine Exhibit and Trade Company.

Petco's Edith Collado, however, denied having kept the list since the PBA hired them to maintain the memorabilia, stressing that Squad Alpha failed to turn over the inventory of the invaluable items.

"The master list is the key to getting a complete inventory of the memorabilia," said Ancheta, who was tasked by Eala to make a report on the matter.

Although 75 percent of the memorabilia has been returned, Ancheta said the rest of the recovered items were heavily damaged.

# All set for Minda Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AT LEAST 4,000 athletes are expected to compete in the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games slated Oct. 19-24 at the Mati Centennial Sports Complex in Mati, Davao Oriental.

The Philippine Sports Commission, which is organizing the event and the Palarong Pambansa in Lanao del Norte, said entries from the 41 local government units will see action in the open tournament that involves 26 sports disciplines.

PSC national programs secretariat chief Ariel Paredes said majority of the registered participants come from provinces and component cities of the region.

He added that the confirmation from athletes of Mindanao's premier cities is expected before the week ends.

After the Mindanao Games, elementary and high school athletes will take center stage in the Palaro at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte on Oct. 25-29.

"The Games are envisioned to serve as the pinnacle of a unified Mindanao sports promotion and development program,'" said PSC chair Eric Buhain. "The Games also hope to encourage people of Mindanao to indulge in physical fitness and sports activities."

Hosting the MFG are Mati Mayor Francisco Rabat, chair of the local organizing committee, Rep. Mayo Almario of Mati and Gov. Elena Palma Gil of Davao Oriental.

# Najorda leads 'NC' All-Stars

LEO Najorda, the league MVP from San Sebastian College, banners the NCAA All-Star selection seeing action in a demonstration match that will mark the opening of the Macau Polytechnic Institute Multi-Sports Pavilion on Oct. 28 in Macau, China.

To be handled by coach Louie Alas of newly crowned champion Letran, the selection will meet a strong Macau selection boasting of players from China and Hong Kong.

"The NCAA is honored to compete in Macau. This experience will help our players improve their skills," said NCAA commissioner and BAP secretary-general Graham Lim.

The trip was arranged through Manuel Silverio, chair of the 4th East Asian Games Organizing Committee.

Alas, who will be assisted by SSC mentor Arturo Valenzona, picked Letran's Aaron Aban, Boyet Bautista, Jonathan Pinera, and Ronjay Enrile for the squad. Completing the roster are Cris Baluyot (SSC), Ron Capati (St. Benilde), Marcel Cuenco (UPHR), Ronnie Bughao (San Beda), McDoanld Santos (JRU), Christian Guevarra (Mapua) and Ian Garrido (PCU).

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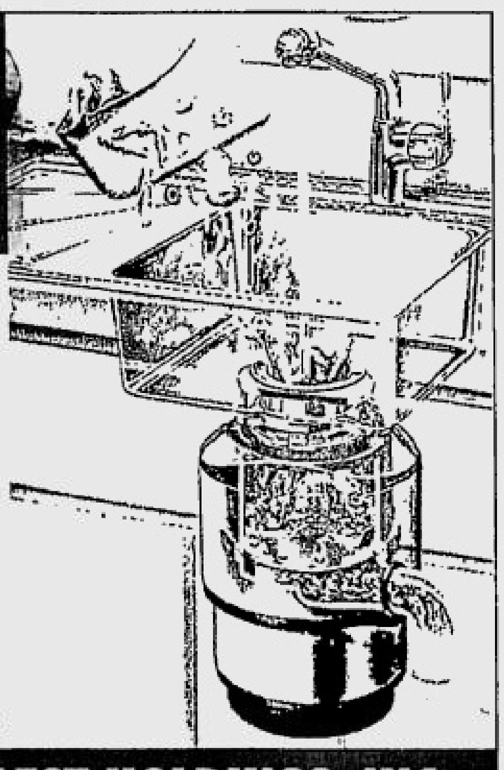

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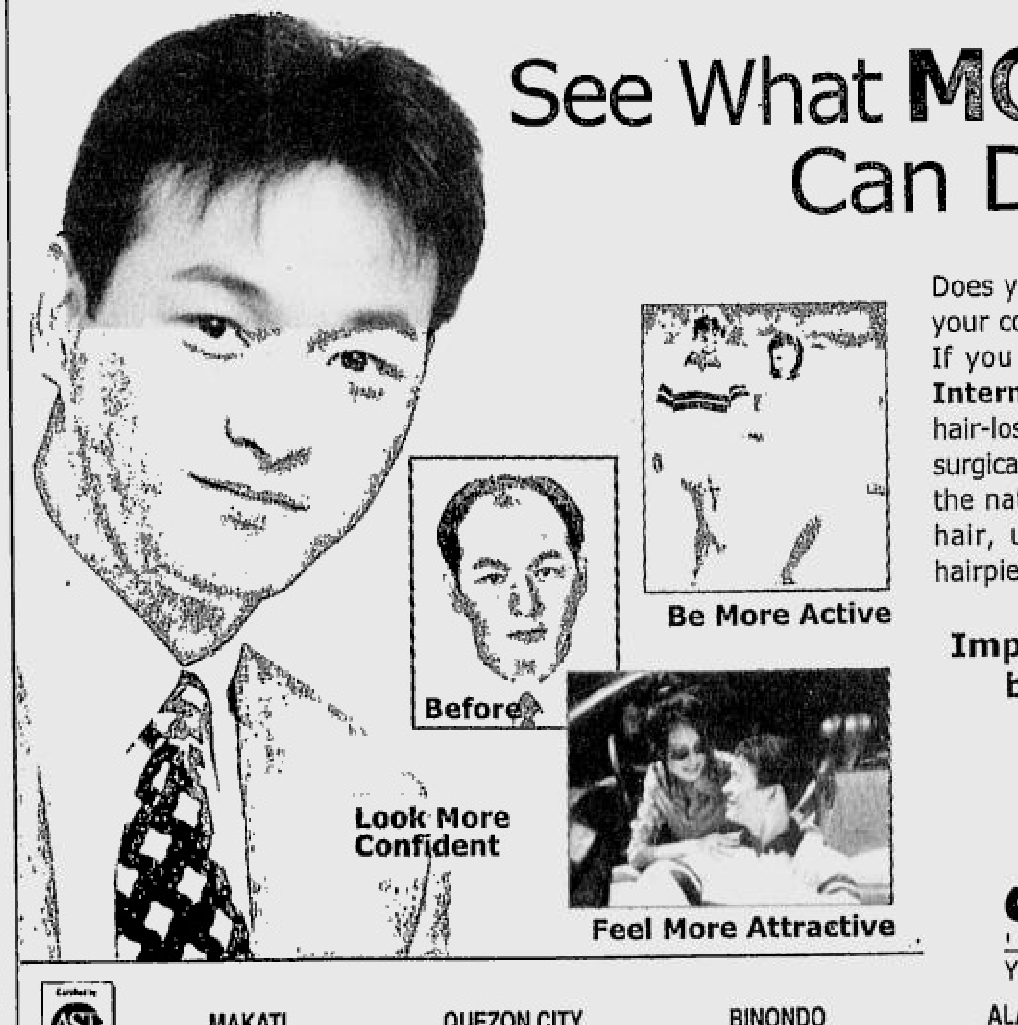

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# Philsoc forms work panels for 2005

**THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee or Philsoc has already formed the working committees that will handle all aspects of the country's hosting of the SEAG in Metro Manila and other possible provincial venues in 2005.**

POC spokesman Gus Villanueva said the country's hosting of the SEA Games has three components, namely hosting preparation, team preparation and infrastructure.

Villanueva said Philsoc's responsibility involves the hosting preparation, which includes the accommodation of the athletes and officials as well as the day-to-day operation of the Games.

The team preparation falls under the Philippine Sports Commission, while infrastructure will be shouldered by government.

However, POC officials noted that the PSC has yet to start its SEAG preparation, which is just as crucial as hosting the event.

"In 1991, the PSC played a big part, that's why we managed to win 91 golds and almost won the overall championship," said sources inside the POC. "They (the POC) should have started talking with the national sports associations by now."

The key members of the Philsoc committees are POC secretary general Romy Ribano for accreditation; Sander Tantoco for administration; table tennis' Vic Valbuena for broadcast management; billiards' Ernesto Fajardo for ceremonies; Mari Martinez for communications; wushu's Julian Camacho for convention and conferences; sepak takraw's Mario Tanchangco for coordination and liaison; dancesports' Becky Garcia for cultural promotions; gymnastics' Noel Buenaventura for data management.

Rowing's Benjamin Ramos for finance; Rosvi Gaetos for hospitality; Emet Penson for marketing services; Gus Villanueva for media and public information; Dr. Raul Canlas for medical; judo's Rey Jaylo for protocol; former PSC commissioner Cynthia Carrion for public participation and tourism; triathlon's Tom Carrasco for special events; former PSC commissioner Richie Garcia for technical operations; Gen. Marlowe Pedregosa for traffic and security; Mon Ilagan for transportation; and wrestling's Red Dumuk for venue management and operations. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

# Quirimit, Tanduay riders dominate Tour of Pangasinan

**PRIMERO: Stage winner**

ARNEL QUIRIMIT easily captured the individual title while powering Tanduay to the overall team championship in the Tour of Pangasinan cycling races that ended in Mangatarem Sunday.

After sparking Tanduay to victory in Saturday's team time trial, Quirimit emerged the top rider by just finishing second in Sunday's massed start race won by Albert Primero of PLDT-NDD, with Lito Atilano of Gilbey's Island Punch placing third.

Primero clocked four hours, 11 minutes and 12.72 seconds for the 178-km stage from Alaminos to Mangatarem, like Quirimit and Atilano.

Adding his clocking in the team time trial, Quirimit, the reigning Tour Pilipinas champion, amassed a time 6:00:26.36 to secure the top prize of P20,000 in the event presented by Air21 and sponsored by FedEx and Mail and More.

Finishing behind Quirimit in the overall individual classification were Oscar Espiritu (Tanduay), second in 6:01:41.82; Warren Davadilla (Intel), third 6:02:14.37; Michael Reyes (Intel), fourth 6:03:10.06; and Ericson Obosa (Tanduay), fifth 6:03:10.25.

Rounding out the top 10 of the event also backed by Caltex, Lipovitan and BPI-MS were Wildredo Calosa (Postmen), sixth 6:03:46.85; Primero, seventh 6:03:55.10; Joseph Millanes (Tanduay), eighth 6:04:33.64; Rene Esteban (Postmen), ninth 6:04:33.64, and Reynaldo Navarro (Postmen), 10th 6:04:41.70.

Tanduay clocked a total time of 25:58:49.48 in running away with the overall team title.

Intel was second in 26:10:13.70, the DOTC Postmen third with 26:14:16.70, DILG Patrol 117 fourth with 26:17:70.27 and PLDT NDD fifth with 26:17:36.88.

Completing the overall team standings were Samsung sixth (26:18:42.30), Bowling Gold seventh (26:27:12.75), Gilbey's Island Punch eighth (26:38:44.48), DILG Drug Busters ninth (26:39:43.47), DENR Ecosavers 10th 26:45:55.93 and Pagcor-Sports 11th (27:02:51.76).

Air21 president and Tour organizer Lito Alvarez and Tour executive director Mar Mendoza awarded the prizes to the winners. Alvarez also led in the recognition rites for 16 former Tour champions who hail from the province.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Simbajon bows to Archer in NY pool final

FILIPINO pool master Santos Simbajon lost to five-time Player of the Year Johnny Archer of the United States, 5-13, in the finals of the Fury World Summit of Pool in Manhattan, New York City over the weekend. On the way to the title showdown with Simbajon, Archer dispatched another Filipino, Jose "Amang" Parica in the semifinals. The 43-year-old Simbajon, a native of Quezon province, won $6,500 for finishing runner-up to Archer, who pocketed the lion's purse of $12,000. Parica received $4,000.

### Lunas, Rodrigo topbill Balanga card

PAN-ASIA Boxing Association flyweight champion Rolly Lunas and RP flyweight king Edgar Rodrigo will headline a double main event card on Nov. 21 at the People's Gym in Balanga, Bataan. Lunas, the Mandaluyong-based pride of Tabaco City, will be making the second defense of the crown when he takes on Phises Vor Surapol of Thailand over 12 rounds. It will be the third straight Thai foe for Lunas, who took the title from Khunsuk Lukprabat last May 29 in Thailand and defended it last Aug. 8 with a unanimous verdict over ex-PABA champ Deeden Kengkarun. Meanwhile, Rodrigo will be facing Thai Khunsuk Lukprabat in a 10-round duel that his new manager, promoter Lope "Jun" Sarreal, Jr., said would be a virtual warmup for his eagerly awaited rematch with former champion Z Gorres. Sarreal said the Balanga event has the full backing of Gov. Ding Roman. The promoter also said he has taken over Rodrigo's contract from Japanese Yuki Murayama, adding he has only to settle some debts Rodrigo owed to his former manager. He added that if Rodrigo gets an easy win over Lukprabat, they would agree to face Gorres for the RP title in December possibly as the undercard of the Luisito Espinosa-Cassius Baloyi IBO junior lightweight championship. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

### No rushing GAB on Gorres rematch

Z GORRES will just have to bide his time before getting a chance to wrest the Philippine flyweight title from Edgar Rodrigo. Based on a resolution adopted by the Games and Amusements Board during its 15th regular meeting this year, Rodrigo has to defend the title against a rated contender to be approved by the GAB before meeting Gorres again. Rodrigo has been idle since dethroning Gorres last June 1 with a ninth-round stoppage mainly due to his dispute with Japanese manager Yuki Murayama. Veteran promoter Lope "Jun" Sarreal, who had announced recently that he had taken over as Rodrigo's manager, has scheduled the flyweight champion to fight in November against a Thai, but that bout may not pave the way for the Gorres-Rodrigo rematch under the GAB resolution. Meanwhile, Gorres has convincingly beaten his two rivals after that loss, in the process fulfilling another condition for a title challenge under that GAB resolution approved by GAB chairman Eduardo Villanueva and commissioners Angel Bautista and Emmanuel Palabrica. Rudy Salud, Gorres' manager, had criticized the GAB for its failure to order a Rodrigo-Gorres rematch, saying his boy deserves another crack at the title. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

### PBL brass guests at PSA Forum

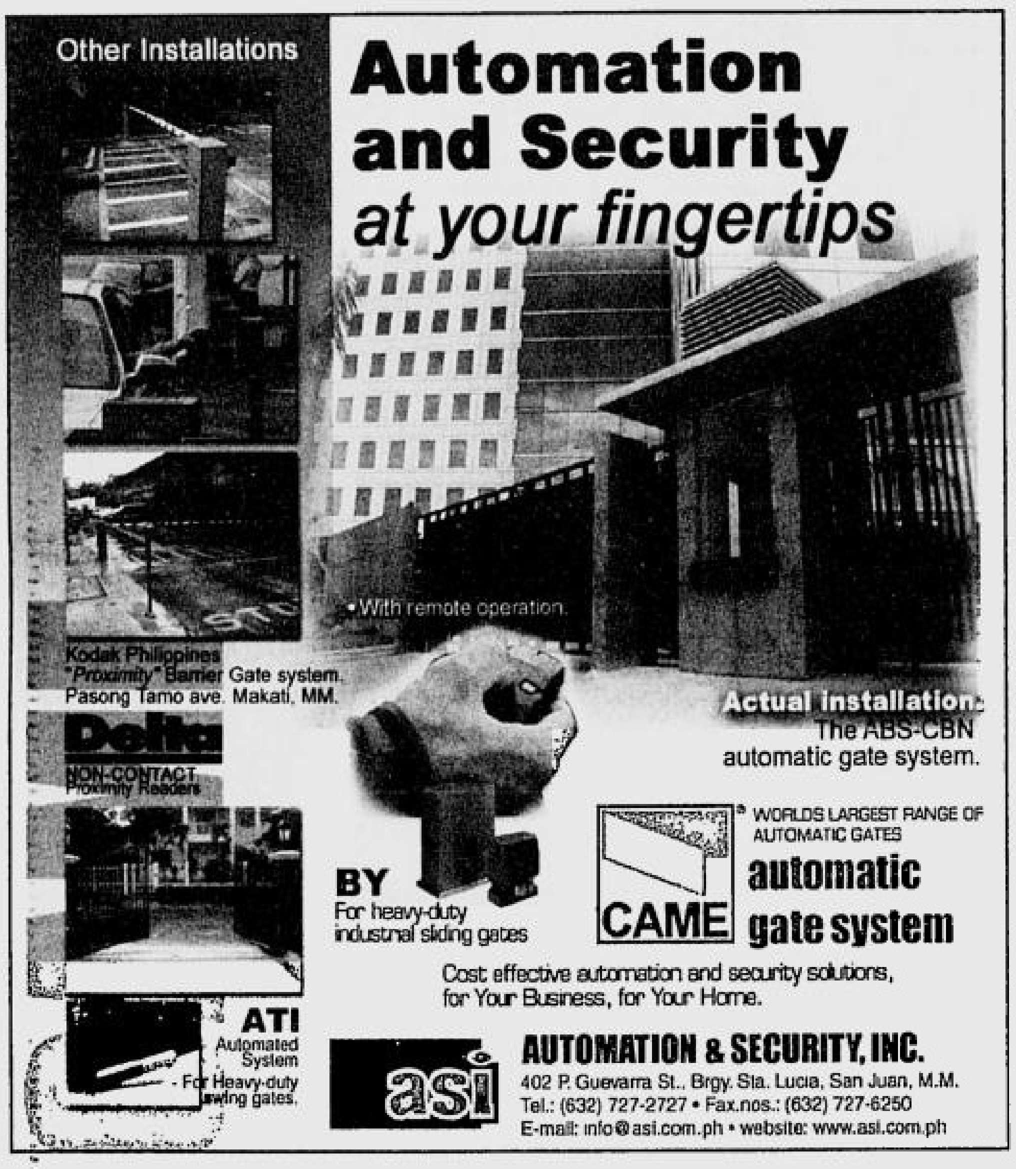
IT'S the Philippine Basketball League's turn to appear in the PSA Forum today at the Manila Pavilion. Commissioner Chino Trinidad and his deputy Tommy Ong will talk about the league's season-ending tournament, the Platinum Cup, set Oct. 25, in the sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor. Others joining them in the 10:30 a.m. session are former Philippine Sports Commission official Cynthia Carrion and Anton Romulo, who are both promoting the 1st Sports Tourism and Adventure Travel Show, as well as Patrick Lee, Rene Magadia and Melito Salazar, who will discuss a forthcoming international golfest among Rotarians.

### Pep rally for athletes gets support

BAUSCH & Lomb's Ocuvite will join Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain at the Oct. 16 pep rally for Philippine athletes and trainer-delegates to the Southeast Asian Games. The rally at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium marks the start of a 50-day countdown to the SEA Games to be held in Vietnam from Dec. 5-13. Bausch & Lomb, through local distributor Croma Medic Inc. has committed to give Ocuvite multivitamin samples to athletes to enhance the Philippine team's performance through better eye care regimen.

### Negros Occ. under-16 booters take it

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Occidental High banked on G. Mamac's heroics to nip Silliman University, 4-3, Sunday and bag the Negros Oriental Coke Go-for Goal under-16 football crown at the Silliman ballfield here. Mamac scored all four NOHS goals, including the winner in the final minute of the thrilling contest. Bais High School thumped SMPCHS, 3-0, to take third spot. A. Dionson and J. Abiera starred for Bais and scored two and one goals, respectively. NOHS and Silliman easily hurdled their respective rivals to arrange the crown showdown in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Philippines. NOHS ripped SMPCHS, 3-0, while Silliman crushed Bais, 4-0.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# Pros play World Cup format at Villamor

LOCAL pros will get the feel of the exciting World Cup format when they see action in the P250,000 Fontana Casino Two-Man Team Challenge set today and tomorrow at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Forty two teams led by brothers Rey and Juanito Pagunsan, Cassius Casas-Roel Bañares, Tony Lascuña-Vince Lauron and Richard Sinfuego-Solomon Gines are taking a shot at the P40,000 champion's purse in the tourney organized by the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines.

There will be cash rewards for the top 15 teams, with the last placer getting P11,000.

Today's play will be best-ball, then shifts to one-ball twosome tomorrow which is exactly the way they do it in the World Cup.

PGAP president Jun Bustamante said that the pros will use the event as a tuneup for the upcoming two big tournaments—the P1-million Eastridge Invitational and the UBX National Pro-Am at Riviera.

Competition rules require the top 30 teams in the current PGAP Order of Merit to pair with those in the lower half.

The notable absentees are Gerald Rosales, Angelo Que, Danny Zarate and Cookie LaO who are all playing in the Macau Open leg of the Asian PGA Tour this week. *Jong Arcano*

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| Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAF) | P 311,460.00<br>At P1.74 per sheet<br>of imported Bookpaper<br>(179,000 pcs.) | November 4, 2003<br>at 2:00 p.m.<br>PABE Conference Rm.<br>3rd Floor, Main Bldg. | P 1,000.00 |
| Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets | P 4,075,120.00<br>At P2.66 per sheet<br>Of imported OCR paper<br>(1,532,000 sheets) | November 7, 2003<br>10:00 a.m.<br>PABE Conference Rm.<br>3rd Floor, Main Bldg. | P 1,000.00 |

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the Office of the Administrative Officer, Ground Floor (beside the guardhouse), PRC Compound, starting on October 15, 2003. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2003. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on November 3, 2003 with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR), may be obtained by interested bidders starting on October 15, 2003 from the Office of the Administrative Officer.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, or to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, to waive any required formality in the bids received or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Commission, without giving any reason thereto and incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson

(PDI – Oct. 14, 2003)

# Endangered species

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

TO those going to Baby Dalupan's birthday celebration tomorrow at the University of the East along C.M. Recto Avenue, Manila, you must feel honored more than Baby himself. Why, because you will be honored to be in the company of a walking marvel only the caliber of God could have had the power to chisel out from the ribs of Adam.

Come to his party, for it is one where the host is not only exalted but is to exalt.

Come to his parlor, for it is one that shimmers in the shafts of light that is of phenom proportions.

Come together, for this is one gathering where we'll witness the E.T. (Elegant Terminator) in all his splendor and glory as the rocking chair by the fireside beckons.

Baby Dalupan is, should always be, the living proof of the last of the vanishing breed of genuine coaches, the thin thread on which hang the last link to an endangered species. Simply put, he is the last of the best, the best of the last.

He is turning 80 but, to me, Baby Dalupan will always be ageless. It is said that life is not measured by years but, rather, by the living you put on those years.

Baby Dalupan is the only coach, living or dead, who never had a written contract to coach.

He gave University of the East seven straight UAAP senior basketball titles without the benefit of a written contract to coach the Warriors.

He gave the fabled Crispa its first PBA Grand Slam title in 1976 without the benefit of a written contract to coach the Redmanizers.

Oh, yes, the good, old days when the PBA was still the PBA.

Do you know that the league's "The Partnership" has yet to be surpassed in its nobility, if not matched at all?

The legend that was Danny Floro (bless his soul, dear God) had this contract with Baby Dalupan that remains the envy of many to this day: A contract that defies all the requirements of a contract. If ever there was a couple that practiced palabra de honor (word of honor) till death do them part, that couple was Danny Floro and Baby Dalupan.

Sadly, that is now a dead trait among Filipinos.

But back in the olden days when the PBA was still the PBA, Danny Floro and Baby Dalupan were the exponents of such cherished tradition. All Danny did was request, verbally, Baby to coach Crispa. Baby did not even say yes. They embraced like real gentlemen did in the days of yore and that was it. Until the day Baby retired from Crispa in 1983, nobody knew how much Danny gave Baby as salary for the 10 seasons that Dalupan coached the Redmanizers.

If it was ten pesos at one peso a year salary, fine.

If it was ten million pesos at one million pesos a year, fine.

Money was not what held them together. Their word of honor, more than their friendship, welded them for life like ant is to sugar.

They never really parted ways when Baby left Crispa in 1983. It was but a temporary goodbye, as all goodbyes among peoples endowed with a good heart were. They'd never separated in the first place as they remained partners, friends, up to the day Danny Floro breathed his last in 1995. I remember one night when I visited the sick Danny at the Makati Med. After I had stepped out of the door, Baby followed me to the hallway and said to me, "Al, *masama ang lagay ni Pareng* Danny. *Bahala ka na sa mga kaibigan natin.* (Al, Danny is in bad shape. Please let our friends know about it.) Baby was in near tears as the words left his lips. During the last rites on the day Danny was to be laid to his final resting place, it was Baby who requested Dave Floro (Danny's son) that I deliver a eulogy. I did. Who was I to refuse the request of The Maestro? After I was done with my piece, Baby Dalupan came to me and thanked me profusely, giving my hand a grip so tight I thought I was shaking hands with Gover-nator Schwarzenegger.

When Joel Banal was asked recently who his favorite coach is, the Ateneo coach replied, "Baby Dalupan."

My hat's off to that, Joel.

***

FASTBREAK. Happy birthday today to Peter Lee, the one-time seniors tennis champion who cooks the most delicious seafood pancit canton with chops of ampalaya (bitter gourd) in it. Discounts are up to lucky customers today at Peter Lee's Hong Kong Tea House along Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. More birthdays to come your way, St. Peter!

# Germany wins World Cup

GERMANY's Mia Kuenzer (left) scores the golden goal past Sweden's Kristin Bengtsson and Kristina Westberg. AFP

CARSON, California—Somewhere on the bottom of the pile of women in white jerseys was a most unlikely hero.

Germany won the Women's World Cup for the first time, 2-1, over Sweden on Nia Kuenzer's header in the eighth minute of overtime Sunday. A substitute who came on 10 minutes earlier, Kuenzer soared high to deflect Renate Lingor's long free kick over the outstretched arm of goalkeeper Caroline Jonsson, who was brilliant all day.

The German players mobbed her and rolled together on the ground, while Sweden's beaten players lay motionless and stunned.

"I was confused," Kuenzer said of her momentous goal. "I wasn't sure what happened, and then my teammates are jumping on top of me and we are all on the ground."

Kuenzer, in her 30th game with the national team, came on with only two minutes remaining in regulation. She got an earlier chance in overtime that was denied, but her header moments later was true.

"Every soccer player dreams of scoring the deciding goal in the World Cup," she said through an interpreter. "But expect it?"

She vigorously shook her head and laughed.

"No."

Swedish coach Marika Domanski-Lyfors expressed pride in both teams, but was livid with referee Floarea Cristina Ionescu's awarding of the free kick that Kuenzer converted.

"It's harder to lose when it's not fair," said Domanski-Lyfors, who berated Ionescu on the field. AP

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# Marlins send NL series back to Wrigley Field

MIAMI—Josh Beckett and the Florida Marlins put history on hold—at least for a couple of days.

With the Chicago Cubs set to clinch their first World Series trip in 58 years, Beckett buzzed Sammy Sosa in pitching a two-hitter and leading the Marlins to a 4-0 win Sunday in Game 5 of the NL championship series.

Ivan Rodriguez, Mike Lowell and Jeff Conine homered and the Marlins played the role of ultimate spoiler—at least to thousands of Cubs fans at Pro Player Stadium and millions nationwide—in closing their gap to 3-2 and sending the series back to Wrigley Field.

Even with nearly a century of failure in their past, the Cubs are not about to panic. At least not yet.

Mark Prior is set to start in Game 6 Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila). If he's needed, fellow ace Kerry Wood would pitch Game 7 the next day as Chicago tries to reach the Series for the first time since 1945.

The Cubs already had made arrangements with the Marlins to use champagne chilling in the Florida clubhouse for a celebration, if necessary. It wasn't.

Meanwhile, Game 4 of the AL championship series between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox was postponed because of rain Sunday and rescheduled for Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila). AP

# *It's Gustafson by 2 strokes*

THE WOODLANDS, Texas—Sophie Gustafson beat the best women golfers in the world and then overcame a dispute over a shot she never made to win the LPGA Samsung World Championship.

After a sparkling 6-under 64 Sunday, she endured a trip to a television network truck to review video of one of her putts. Then she carted back on the course to address another rules challenge before LPGA officials determined she had topped the field with her 14-under 274, two shots better than Rachel Teske and Beth Daniel.

Gustafson, 29, won her fourth US tournament, and first in more than two years.

In Las Vegas, Stuart Appleby birdied the first playoff hole at the Las Vegas Invitational to beat Scott McCarron and get his first PGA Tour victory since 1999.

Appleby pumped his fist when he made the decisive 15-foot putt Sunday. McCarron had a chance to extend the playoff with a putt almost identical to Appleby's. However, his shot broke left and slid by the hole. AP

# Clijsters still No. 1

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Maybe Kim Clijsters should forget practising, take the week off before a grand slam event and just play with her dog.

The Belgian player has lost three grand slam finals, but finally won a big match Sunday, outlasting Justine Henin-Hardenne, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, in a rare battle between the No. 1 and No. 2 with the top ranking on the line.

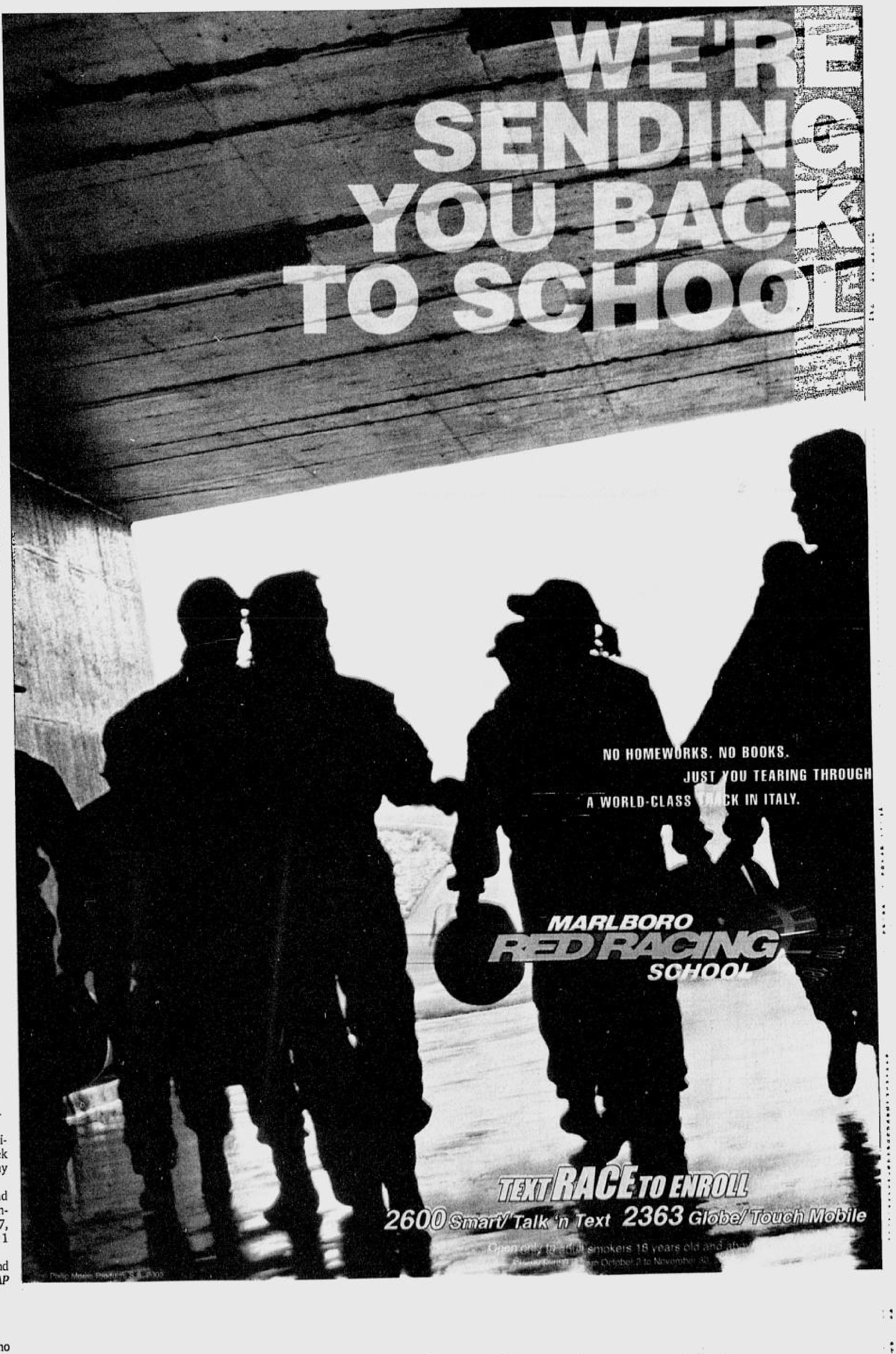
Clijsters has the choice between a Porsche and US$100,000 for winning her 17th career title. AP

# 'Shoe' passes away

SAN MARINO, California—Bill Shoemaker, who rode four Kentucky Derby winners and for more than 40 years was a commanding presence in thoroughbred racing, died Sunday. He was 72.

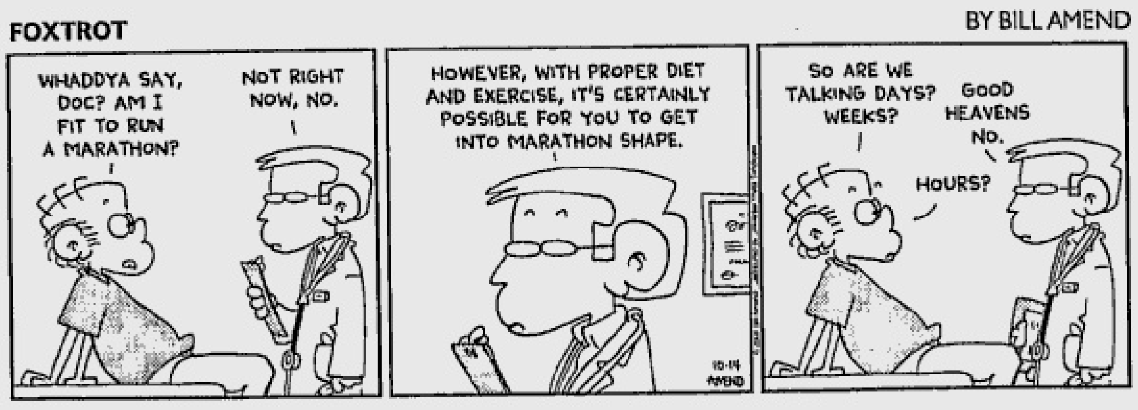
Shoemaker died in his sleep at his suburban home near Santa Anita racetrack, according to longtime friend and trainer Paddy Gallagher. The Hall of Fame jockey had been paralyzed from the neck down since 1991.

Only 4-foot-11 (150 centimeters), the superb athlete known simply as "The Shoe" throughout his career, rode for 41 years. AP


WE'RE SENDING YOU BACK TO SCHOOL
NO HOMEWORKS. NO BOOKS.
JUST YOU TEARING THROUGH
A WORLD-CLASS TRACK IN ITALY.
MARLBORO RED RACING SCHOOL
TEXT RACE TO ENROLL
2600 Smart/Talk 'n Text 2363 Globe/Touch Mobile
Open only to adult smokers 18 years old and ab
October 2 to November 30
Philip Morris Products S.A. 2003
Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

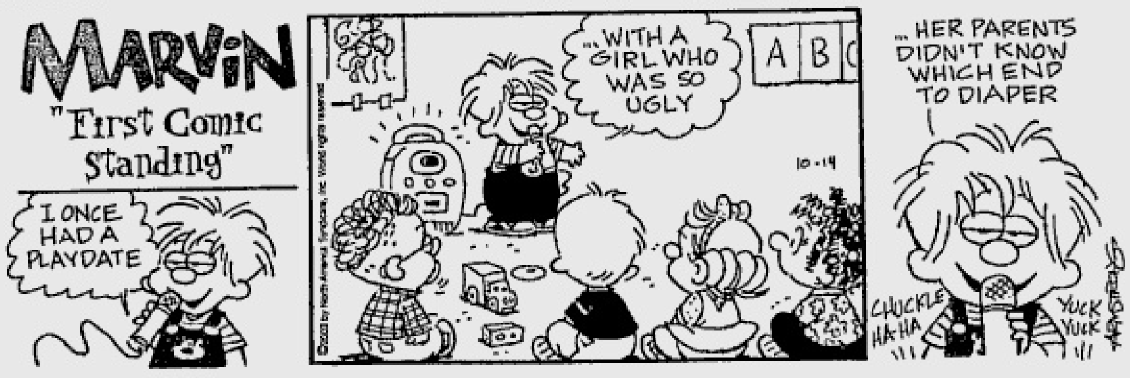
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHADDYA SAY, DOC? AM I FIT TO RUN A MARATHON?
NOT RIGHT NOW, NO.
HOWEVER, WITH PROPER DIET AND EXERCISE, IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GET INTO MARATHON SHAPE.
10-14 AMEND
SO ARE WE TALKING DAYS? WEEKS?
GOOD HEAVENS NO.
HOURS?

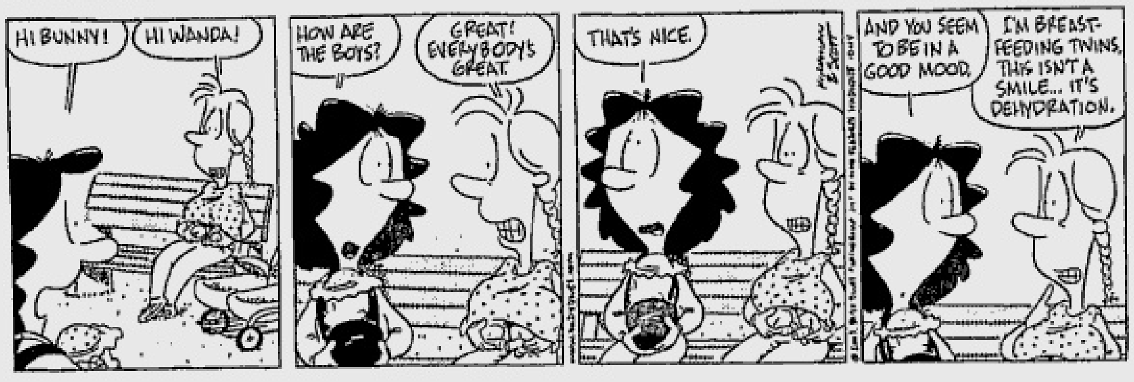
### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN
"First Comic Standing"
I ONCE HAD A PLAYDATE
...WITH A GIRL WHO WAS SO UGLY
A B C
10-14
...HER PARENTS DIDN'T KNOW WHICH END TO DIAPER
CHUCKLE HA HA
YUCK YUCK

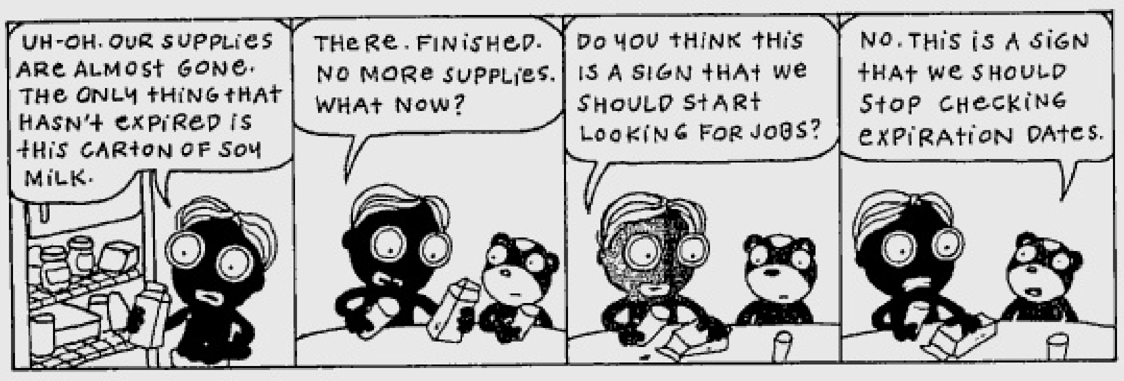
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI BUNNY!
HI WANDA!
HOW ARE THE BOYS?
GREAT! EVERYBODY'S GREAT.
THAT'S NICE.
AND YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.
I'M BREAST-FEEDING TWINS. THIS ISN'T A SMILE... IT'S DEHYDRATION.

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-OH. OUR SUPPLIES ARE ALMOST GONE. THE ONLY THING THAT HASN'T EXPIRED IS THIS CARTON OF SOY MILK.
THERE. FINISHED. NO MORE SUPPLIES. WHAT NOW?
DO YOU THINK THIS IS A SIGN THAT WE SHOULD START LOOKING FOR JOBS?
NO. THIS IS A SIGN THAT WE SHOULD STOP CHECKING EXPIRATION DATES.

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You try to see both sides of an issue. Because of this, you often lend stability to shaky situations. You are a quiet leader, and you believe in the unity of family. You like to take your time to do things. For you, haste makes waste. Your closest relationships and partnerships are your focus this year.
**Birthdate of:** Dwight Eisenhower, 34th US president; Isaac Mizrahi, fashion designer; Jon Seda, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** It's too easy to be critical of partners and family members today. Don't do it. Ironically, criticizing others only makes you feel less happy.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** It's easy to fall into a negative headspace at work today. However, it's a good day for heavy mental work or anything that requires a disciplined mind.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Money worries bother you today. You might also be worried about children or romantic liaisons. People feel unloved and lonely today. (This will be gone by tomorrow.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You might feel moody and a bit blue today. Others are not receptive or friendly. This is just a temporary dark cloud passing over you. Relax.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Don't fall into a "worry funk" today. Negative thinking is rampant now. Quit focusing on the imperfections and flaws of others.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** You're not keen to spend money with a friend or group today. This might be something you agreed to do before—but now you don't want to. Wait a day or two.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** This is not the ideal day to talk to bosses and authority figures. You'll have difficulty being understood. Ironically, you'll create a negative impression rather than a favorable one.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** This is a good day to do research. Try to work alone if you can. Disciplined thinking comes easily because you want everything spelled out .

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Don't let others criticize you or put you down today. What they say is more a reflection of their minds rather than of you. Give it little thought.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** There's no pleasing people today! Everyone is picky, negative and narrow-minded. This is just a passing influence. It'll be gone in two days.

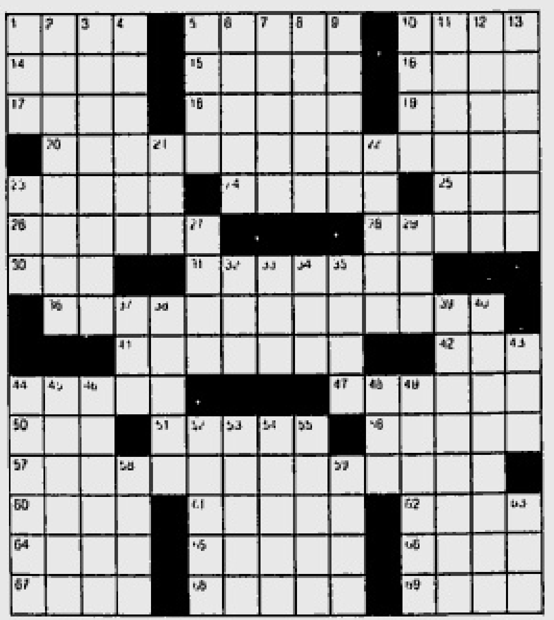
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Plans connected with publishing, travel, higher education or legal matters suddenly look impossible or discouraging. Don't give in. Look at this again.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You feel you have the responsibilities of the world on your shoulders today. Actually, this is simply your own temporary perspective. In a day or two, you'll feel extremely powerful.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pushy wind?
5 Fritter away
10 My word!
14 NYC theater
15 __-base hit
16 Inconsequential
17 Fibber
18 Speedskater Bonnie
19 South American monkey
20 Fall event
23 Pop open
24 Garb
25 "__ Haw"
26 Brains
28 Pre-1917 Russian rulers
30 Down a frank
31 Volunteered
36 1904 and 1994 oddity
41 Put into motion
42 __ d'Isere, France
44 Military mess
47 Siesta wrap
50 Hog haunch
51 Wacky Jerry
56 Tortilla chip
57 All-Star side
60 Ward of "Once and Again"
61 Hawaiian banquets
62 Address for the Queen
64 Free of fat
65 "__ of God"
66 Takeoff listings: abbr.
67 Rush-job acronym
68 The ones here
69 Twiggy home

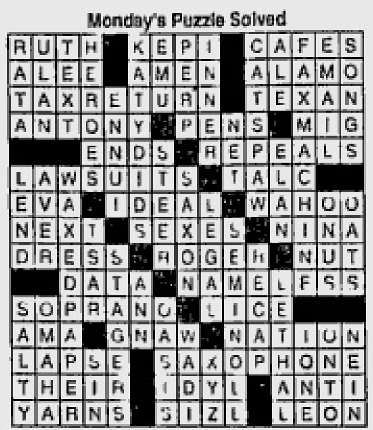
DOWN
1 Guy's sweetie
2 Teamster, for one
3 Rapid-fire notes
4 Fish sauce
5 "Dragnet" star Jack
6 Like four-wheeled vehicles
7 Ken the prosecutor
8 Jiffy
9 Some noblemen
10 CPR experts
11 Kimono-clad hostess
12 More Bohemian
13 Removes frost
21 Make a choice
22 Fall flower
23 __ as directed
27 Alphabetize
29 Star Wars letters
32 Grippe
33 Pharm. watchdog
34 Guessed fig.
35 Jed of "The Chris Isaak Show"
37 One-time female mil. group
38 Eyes
39 Leave empty
40 Nitwits
43 Sayer or McKern
44 Type of daisy
45 Identifiers
46 Aviator Earhart
48 Santa __ winds
49 Sellers of scraps
52 Showy display
53 "Brideshead Revisited" author
54 Pointless
55 Swings around
58 Highway access
59 Being: Lat.
63 Idaho hrs.



By Jim Page
New York, NY

10/14/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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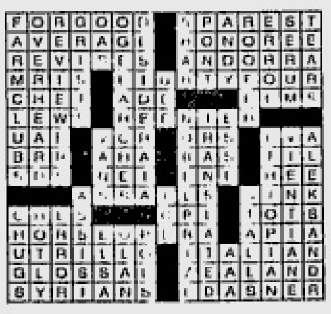
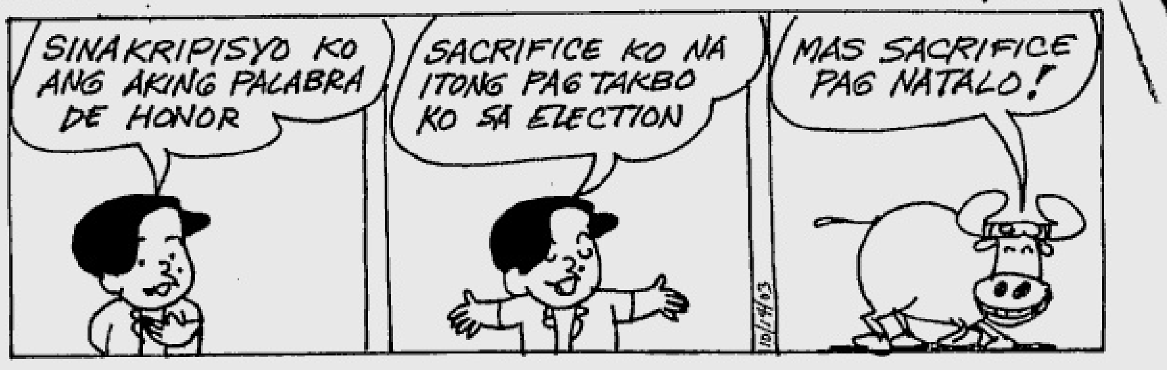
11/4/03

Correct answer
to Saturday's crossword



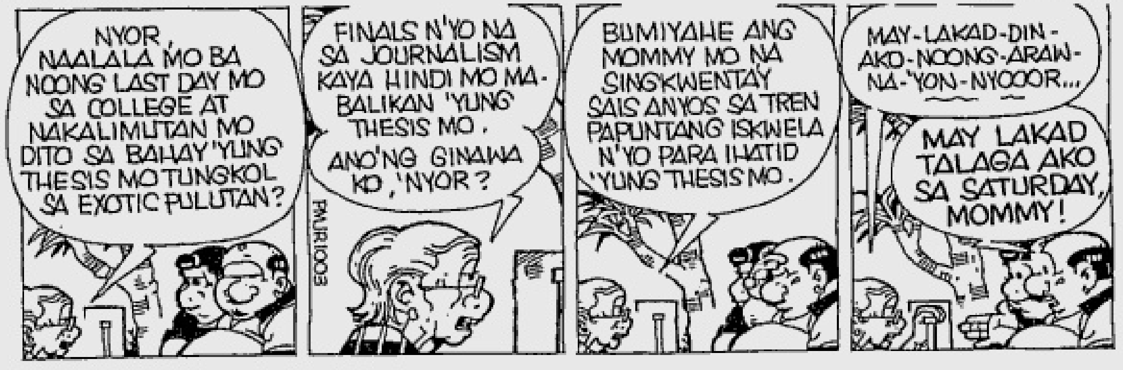
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SINAKRIPISYO KO ANG AKING PALABRA DE HONOR
SACRIFICE KO NA ITONG PAG TAKBO KO SA ELECTION
10/14/03
MAS SACRIFICE PAG NATALO!

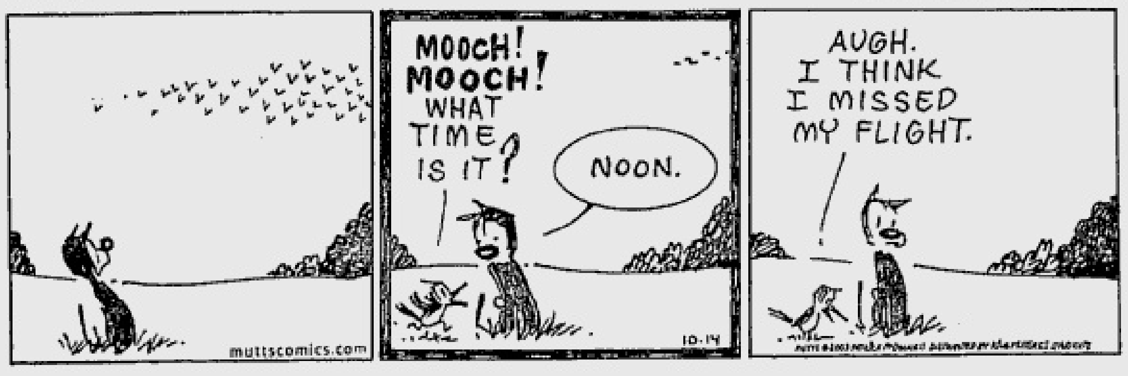
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NYOR, NAALALA MO BA NOONG LAST DAY MO SA COLLEGE AT NAKALIMUTAN MO DITO SA BAHAY 'YUNG THESIS MO TUNGKOL SA EXOTIC PULUTAN?
FINALS N'YO NA SA JOURNALISM KAYA HINDI MO MABALIKAN 'YUNG THESIS MO. ANO'NG GINAWA KO, 'NYOR?
PMJR1003
BUMIYAHE ANG MOMMY MO NA SINGKWENTAY SAIS ANYOS SA TREN PAPUNTANG ISKWELA N'YO PARA IHATID 'YUNG THESIS MO.
MAY-LAKAD-DIN-AKO-NOONG-ARAW-NA-'YON-NYOOOR...
MAY LAKAD TALAGA AKO SA SATURDAY, MOMMY!

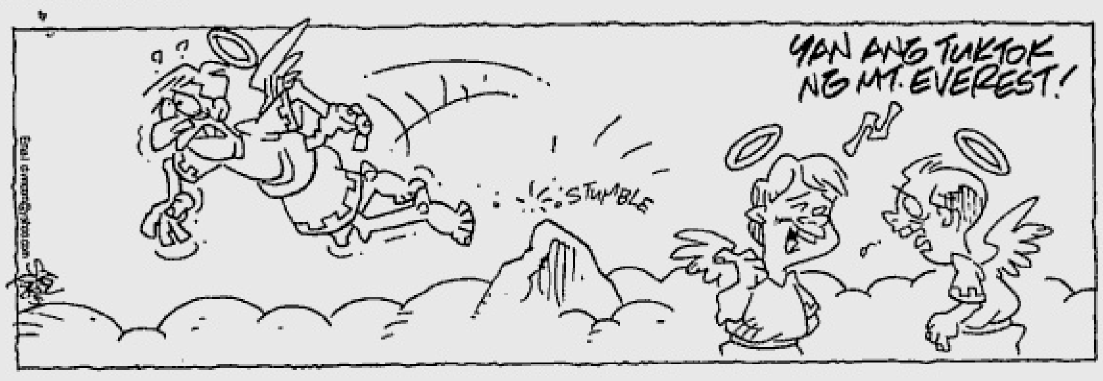
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
MOOCH! MOOCH! WHAT TIME IS IT?
NOON.
10-14
AUGH. I THINK I MISSED MY FLIGHT.

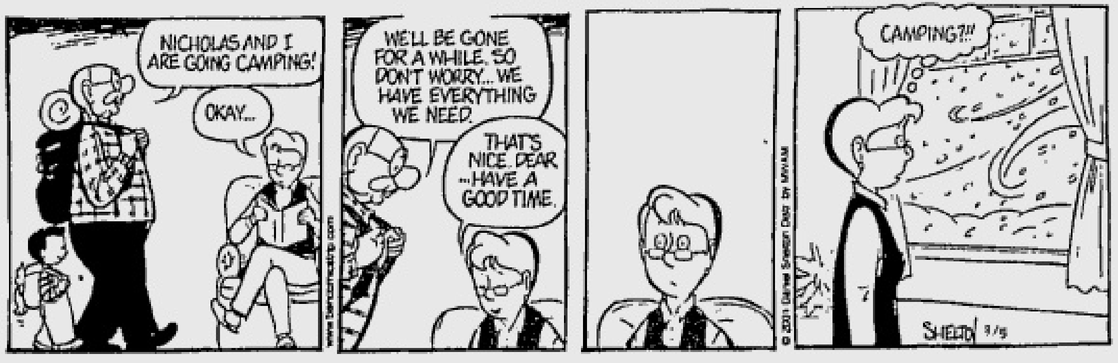
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YAN ANG TUKTOK NG MT. EVEREST!
STUMBLE

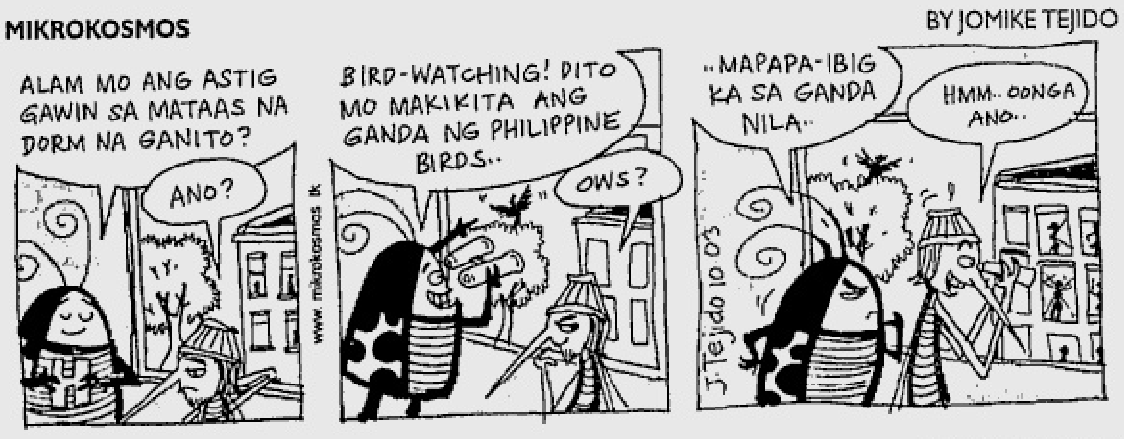
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS AND I ARE GOING CAMPING!
OKAY...
WE'LL BE GONE FOR A WHILE. SO DON'T WORRY... WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED.
THAT'S NICE, DEAR ...HAVE A GOOD TIME.
CAMPING?!!
SHELTON

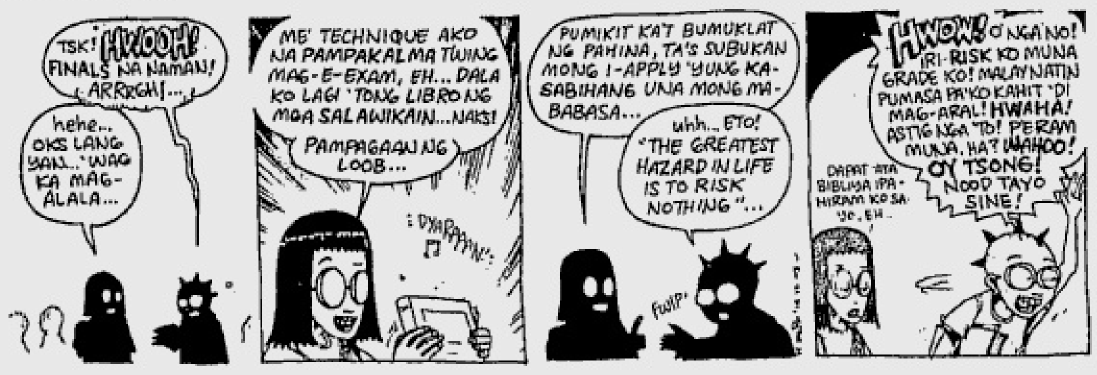
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM MO ANG ASTIG GAWIN SA MATAAS NA DORM NA GANITO?
ANO?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
BIRD-WATCHING! DITO MO MAKIKITA ANG GANDA NG PHILIPPINE BIRDS..
OWS?
J. Tejido 10 03
..MAPAPA-IBIG KA SA GANDA NILA..
HMM.. OONGA ANO..

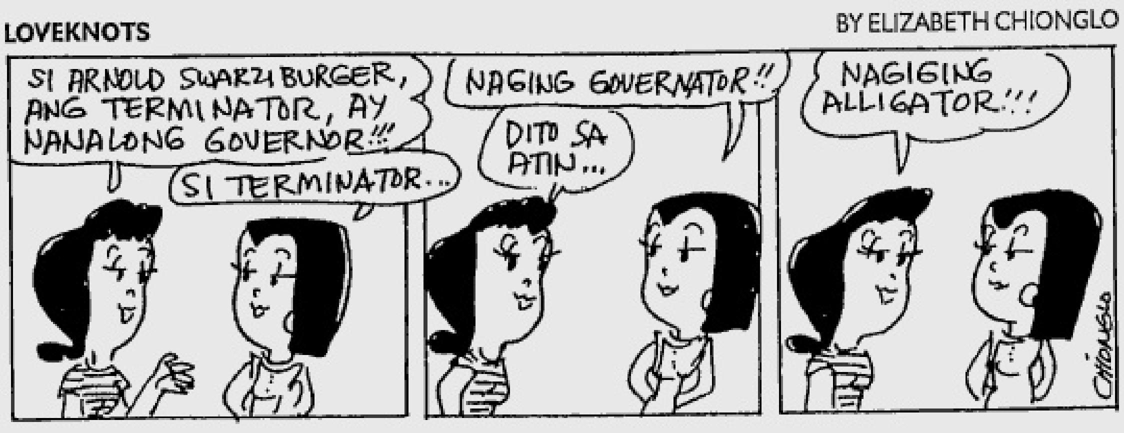
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! HWOOH! FINALS NA NAMAN! ARRRGH!...
hehe.. OKS LANG YAN..'WAG KA MAG-ALALA...
ME' TECHNIQUE AKO NA PAMPAKALMA TUWING MAG-E-EXAM, EH... DALA KO LAGI 'TONG LIBRO NG MGA SALAWIKAIN...NAKS!
PAMPAGAAN NG LOOB...
DYARAN!
PUMIKIT KA'T BUMUKLAT NG PAHINA, TA'S SUBUKAN MONG I-APPLY 'YUNG KASABIHANG UNA MONG MABABASA...
uhh... ETO! "THE GREATEST HAZARD IN LIFE IS TO RISK NOTHING"...
FWIP!
HWOW! O NGA NO! IRI-RISK KO MUNA GRADE KO! MALAY NATIN PUMASA PA KO KAHIT 'DI MAG-ARAL! HWAHA! ASTIG NGA 'TO! PERAM MUNA, HA? WAHOO! OY TSONG! NOOD TAYO SINE!
DAPAT ATA BIBLIYA IPA-HIRAM KO SA 'YO, EH...

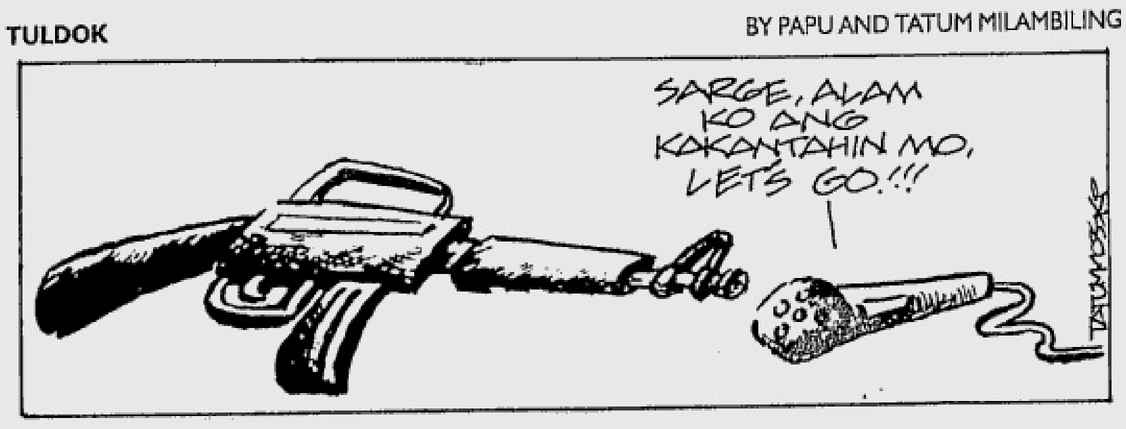
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SI ARNOLD SWARZIBURGER, ANG TERMINATOR, AY NANALONG GOVERNOR!!!
SI TERMINATOR...
NAGING GOVERNATOR!!
DITO SA ATIN...
NAGIGING ALLIGATOR!!!
CHIONGLO

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SARGE, ALAM KO ANG KAKANTAHIN MO, LET'S GO!!!
TATUM

# SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

## NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 INNER SENSES
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 UNDERWORLD

### SM CITY CEBU
2313875

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 KATAS
6 THE MEDALLION
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173068

1 PILYA
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 UNDERWORLD
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 TREK

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MEDALLION
4 KATAS
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294875

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

### SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD

### SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

### SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 AMRICAN PIE THE WEDDING
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 PILYA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10 TREK

### SM SOUTHMALL
8065638

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 INNER SENSES
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 THE TREK
6 KISKISAN
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 HOW TO DEAL
10 PILYA

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9359749

1 TREK
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 THE MEDALLION
4 UNDERWORLD
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
9 FREDDY VS. JASON
10 KISKISAN
11 FIRST TIME
12 PILYA

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976958

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 NEW BLOOD
5 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
6 THE RUNDOWN

### SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 THE MEDALLION
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6365000
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 INNER SENSES
6 MAGDALENE SISTERS
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 FREDDY VS. JASON
12 PILYA

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

### SM CITY ILOILO
3208422

1 KALABIT
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE MEDALLION
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 THE RUNDOWN
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 UNDERWORLD
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 UNDERWORLD
7 PILYA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
11 INNER SENSES
12 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592584

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 BASIC
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

### SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4434505

OPENS
Nov. 21

## THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1
THE RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2
AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 THX | 4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10 |
| 2 THE TREK 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:05 | 5 UNDERWORLD 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50 |
| 3 GIGLI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | 6 THE RUNDOWN 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 |
| 7 AMERICAN PSYCHO 10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 7.00, 9.00 | 9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11.30, 2.10, 4.50, 7.30, 10.00 |
| 8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 12.35, 2.55, 5.15, 7.35, 9:55 | 10 HOW TO DEAL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 |

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1 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
2 HOW TO DEAL - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
3 RUNDOWNN 10.10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

### Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8200

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE :THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 THE MEDALLION
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 THE RUNDOWN

### Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOW TO DEAL
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 THE RUNDOWN

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|---|---|---|
| THE RUNDOWN | 1 | UNDERWORLD |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 2 | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING |
| KATAS | 3 | THE RUNDOWN |
| TAKE MY BODY | 4 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| THE MEDALLION | 5 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | 6 | PILYA |

| Bacolod<br>(034)441-0458/59 | | Iloilo<br>(033)336-8070 to 78 |
|---|---|---|
| ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO | 1 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 2 | VISIBLE SECRET |
| 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS | 3 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| BASIC | 4 | THE MEDALLION |
| PEOPLE I KNOW | 5 | KALABIT |
| 1ST TIME | 6 | THE RUNDOWN |

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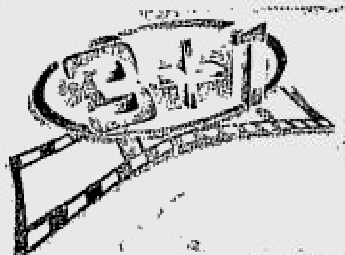
|---|---|---|
| AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | 1 | PILYA |
| THE RUNDOWN | 2 | THE RUNDOWN |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 3 | AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING |
| KISKISAN | 4 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| TAKE MY BODY | 5 | |

SOON TO OPEN
LIPA, BATANGAS
CAINTA JUNCTION
DASMARINAS, CAVITE



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3RD WEEK MAGIC 89.9
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
Watch "UNDERWORLD" in your favorite theaters & be among the first to see the worldwide trailer launch of "LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING".
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

VAMPIRES vs. WEREWOLVES...
only the strongest will survive.
NEW VERSION
R-18
MORE ACTION, MORE TERROR, MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS
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SCOTT SPEEDMAN
UNDERWORLD

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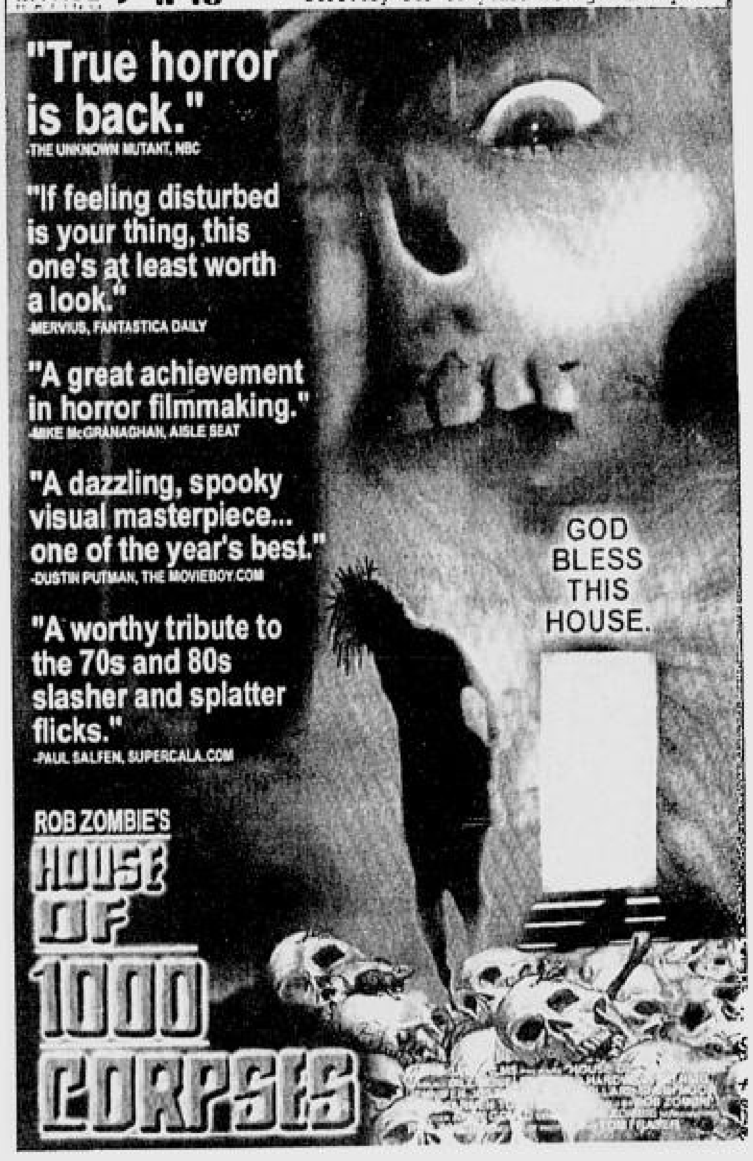
MTRCB RATING R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up.


"True horror is back."
-THE UNKNOWN MUTANT, NBC
"If feeling disturbed is your thing, this one's at least worth a look."
-MERVIUS, FANTASTICA DAILY
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-MIKE McGRANAGHAN, AISLE SEAT
"A dazzling, spooky visual masterpiece... one of the year's best."
-DUSTIN PUTMAN, THE MOVIEBOY.COM
"A worthy tribute to the 70s and 80s slasher and splatter flicks."
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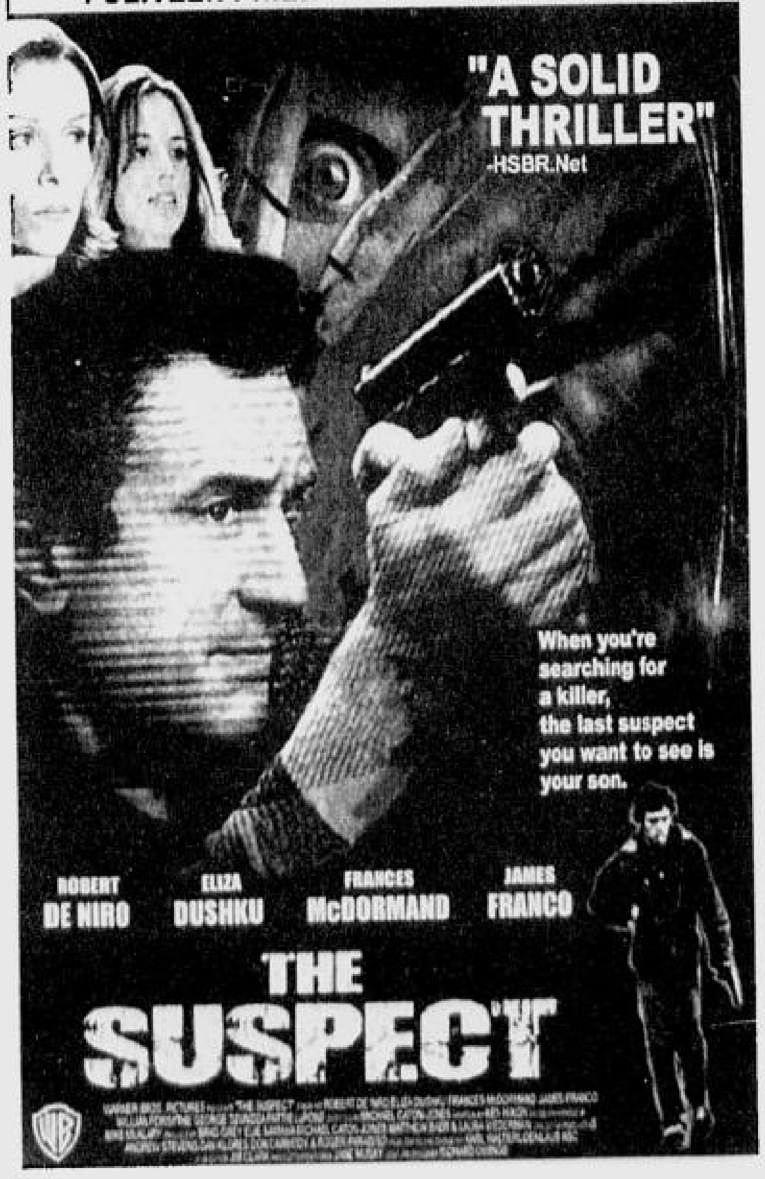
ROB ZOMBIE'S
HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

OPENS TOMORROW MAGIC 89.9
BASED ON A SHOCKING TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY PULITZER-PRIZE WINNER MIKE McALARY


"A SOLID THRILLER"
-HSBR.Net
When you're searching for a killer, the last suspect you want to see is your son.
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ELIZA DUSHKU
FRANCES McDORMAND
JAMES FRANCO
THE SUSPECT

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CINEMA 1: AMERICAN PIE "THE WEDDING" R18

CINEMA 2: RUNDOWN PG13

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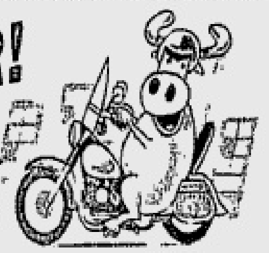
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OCT 17 & 18 | PAOLO SANTOS BY REQUEST | 9:00PM |
| OCT 23 | MARISSA SANCHEZ AT THE MUSIC MUSEUM | 9:00PM |

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6728 OR 721-0635

## WE DELIVER!



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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

### MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

### QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | PILYA |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

### NOVA MALL / NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| A | PILYA |
| B | |
| C | |

### MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

### CAINTA RIZAL

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | KISKISAN |
| CINEMA-2 | KATAS |
| CINEMA-3 | PILYA |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MEDALLION |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | TREK |
| CINEMA-6 | TAKE MY BODY |
| CINEMA-7 | FIRST TIME |
| CINEMA-8 | JASON VS. FREDDY |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDINH |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | UNDERWORLD |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | HOW TO DEAL |
| CINEMA-12 | HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES |
| CINEMA-14 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| CINEMA-15 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |

### L'ORES

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | [illegible] |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

### NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| CINEMA-1 | MEDALLION |
| CINEMA-2 | DARK WATER |
| CINEMA-4 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |

### UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

## ALL DIGITAL SOUND
## AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | G4 GLORIETTA 4 | GB1 GREENBELT 1 | GB3 GREENBELT 3 | ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | ArtFilm 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE RUNDOWN 1:55 4:15 6:35 8:55 11:15 | THX 1 THE RUNDOWN |
| 2 UNDERWORLD | 2 THE RUNDOWN | 2 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 50 1:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30 | 2 UNDERWORLD |
| 3 THE RUNDOWN | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 UNDERWORLD 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30 | REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 9PM | GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CITY OF GOD 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30 | 3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING |
| 4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 4 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS | | GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BASIC 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30 | 4 HOW TO DEAL |
| | 5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | | GUARANTEED SEATS 5 UNDERWORLD 1:20 3:50 6:20 8:50 11:20 | 5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| | 6 HOW TO DEAL | | | |
| | 7 CITY OF GOD | | | |

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

## MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) HOW TO DEAL
2 (SDDS) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 (DTS) INNER SENSES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) AMERICAN PIE
5 (DOLBY) RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
6 (DOLBY/SDDS) AMERICAN PIE
7 (DOLBY DOLBY EX) UNDERWORLD
8 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9 UNDERWORLD
10 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

**Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 - 833.3274
1 PILYA
2 AMERICAN PIE
3 RUN DOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )

**st rmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
2 TREK
3 PILYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) AMERICAN PIE
5 KISKISAN

**METROPOLIS st r**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 PILYA
2 KISKISAN
3 UNDERWORLD
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 AMERICAN PIE
6 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )

**M st r**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 TAKE MY BODY
2 NEW BLOOD

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 DADDY DAY CARE

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC**
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 OUT RAGE
4

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 TREK
6 PILYA
7 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE
8 (SDDS) RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
9 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 PILYA
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KATAS
4 (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE
5 KISKISAN
6 (DOLBY) RUN DOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
7 (DTS) UNDERWORLD
8 TREK
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0082
1 PILYA
2 (SDDS) RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE
4 (DOLBY) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE
4 PILYA
5 (SDDS) UNDERWORLD

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

**Sampaguita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson PILYA
Lords PILYA
Jennet RESERVE

**MARKETPLACE**
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 AMERICAN PIE
3 PILYA
4 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE
2 PILYA
3 UNDERWORLD
4 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
5 TREK

**FRC Cinema**
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 PILYA
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
**Araneta**

**MALL CINEPLEX 7**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 PILYA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS) AMERICAN PIE
5 (DTS) ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 HOW TO DEAL
7 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

**FarmersPlaza CINEMAS**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 KISKISAN
2 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
2 (DTS) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DOLBY) FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE
4 RUNDOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DOLBY) HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 DARK WATER
3 (DOLBY) BASIC
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

**Magic Star Cinema**
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DTS) HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KISKISAN
2 MOTEL
3 (DTS) HOT DOG THE MOVIE
4 RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS) RUN DOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
4 KISKISAN
5 KATAS

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 NENA INOSENTE
2 AMERICAN PIE
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249.2558
1 AMERICAN PIE
2 DARK WATER
3 NENA INOSENTE

**Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 KATAS
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS) MEDALLION
4 (DOLBY) HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KISKISAN
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 RESERVE

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 KISKISAN
4 TAKE MY BODY

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MEDALLION
2 RUN DOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 KISKISAN

**Cine Nepo Mall**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 MEDALLION
2 RUN DOWN ( SNEAK PREVIEW )
3 (DOLBY) HOW TO DEAL
4 AMERICAN PIE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

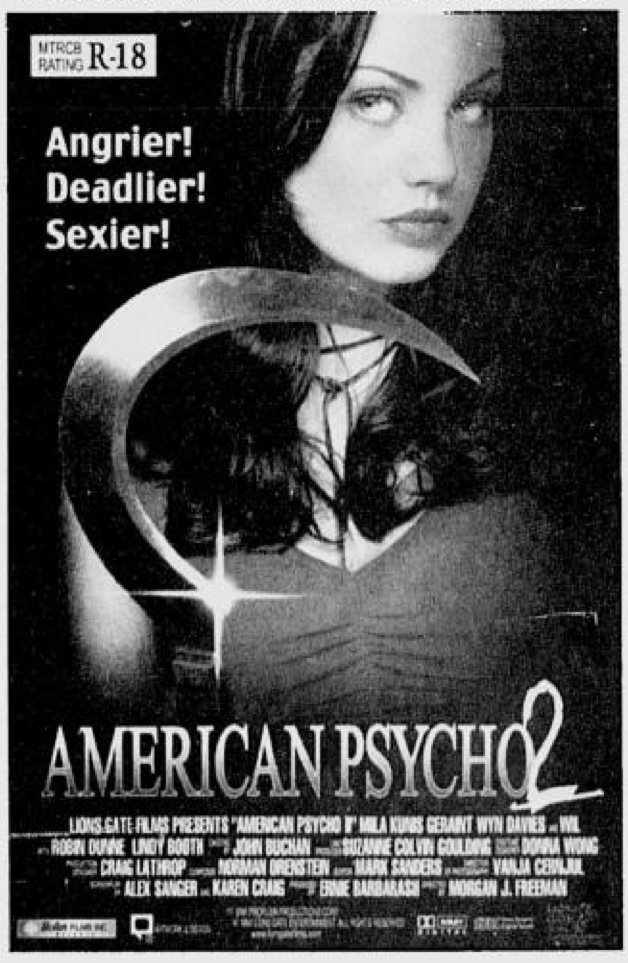
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

ROB ZOMBIE
HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

NOW SHOWING

## NOW SHOWING
Exclusively at SM MAGAMALL SM MANILA
ROBINNSON-ERMITA
ROBINSON GALLERIA

PURE EVIL CHOOSES NO GENDER. BUT WHEN A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN BECOMES ONE... SEX IS THE MAIN WEAPON FOR BIZARRE KILLINGS!!


MTRCB RATING R-18
Angrier!
Deadlier!
Sexier!
AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

## NOW SHOWING
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GREENBELT-1 MEGAMALL
ROBINSON GALLERIA GLORIETTA 4

THE MOST SHOCKING AND PROVOCATIVE DEPICTION OF AN ABUSIVE CATHOLIC CONVENT IN IRELAND WHERE WOMEN WERE RAPED, BEATEN, STARVED AND FORCED TO UNPAID LABOR AS PENANCE FOR THEIR SINS!

**BASED ON TRUE STORY**

MTRCB RATING R-13
WINNER !
DISCOVERY AWARD (TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL AWARD)
JURY AWARD (NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL)
AUDIENCE AWARD ( LOS ANGELES WEST FILM FESTIVAL)
ANNUAL MOVIE AWARD (EUROPEAN UNION)
WINNER! BEST PICTURE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
MARS DISTRIBUTION
MIRAMAX FILMS

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | **OPENS TOMORROW**

**matchstick men** (mach stik men) n. pl. 1. Sleek con artists who have masterly portrayed the art of sweet-talking people into generously giving into to their desired purpose (Purpose maybe money, a thing, or a specified behavior) 2. Men who steal via wit, trickery, charm & confusion 3. Disturbed & troubled individuals who are on the verge of coming into an emotional or psychological breakdown (behavior traits: obsessive compulsive, chain-smoker & no personal relationships); severely complicated by the arrival of a teenage daughter 4. A sneakily, clever top-notch film by Sir Ridley Scott (Gladiator & Black Hawk Down)

NICOLAS CAGE SAM ROCKWELL ALISON LOHMAN

A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM

## MATCHSTICK MEN

WARNER BROS PICTURES PRESENTS AN IMAGEMOVERS/SCOTT FREE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH RICKSHAW PRODUCTIONS AND LIVEPLANET A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM NICOLAS CAGE SAM ROCKWELL ALISON LOHMAN "MATCHSTICK MEN" BRUCE McGILL MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER CHARLES J.D. SCHLISSEL GIANNINA FACIO DODY DORN A.C.E. TOM FODEN JOHN MATHIESON B.S.C. ROBERT ZEMECKIS ERIC GARCIA NICHOLAS GRIFFIN & TED GRIFFIN JACK RAPKE RIDLEY SCOTT STEVE STARKEY SEAN BAILEY AND TED GRIFFIN RIDLEY SCOTT

IMAGEMOVERS www.matchstickmenmovie.com AOL Keyword: Matchstick Men WARNER BROS. PICTURES

# Bong: I'll wait till Jinggoy is ready

From page A30

ga!"/GMA 7), Claudine Barreto, best female TV host ("ASAP Mania"/ABS-CBN), Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos, best public affairs program hosts ("Debate"/GMA 7), Cheche Lazaro, best travel show host ("Cheche Lazaro Presents"/GMA 7), Ernie Baron, best educational program host ("Knowledge Power"/ABS-CBN), Robert Alejandro, best children show host ("Art Is Kool"/GMA 7), Luis Philip Manzano, best new male TV personality ("ASAP Mania"/ABS-CBN), Karen Davila, best magazine show host ("The Correspondents"/ABS-CBN), and Angel Aquino, Cher Calvin and Daphne Oseña, best lifestyle show hosts ("F"/ABS-CBN).

Other shows that were honored were "Bubble Gang" (GMA 7) for best gag show, "Wansapanataym" (ABS-CBN) for best horror/fantasy show, "Click" (GMA 7) for best youth-oriented show, "Debate" (GMA 7) for best public affairs program, "Cheche Lazaro Presents" (GMA 7) for best travel show, "F" (ABS-CBN) for best lifestyle show, "Knowledge Power" (ABS-CBN) for best educational program, "Art Is Kool" (GMA 7) for best children show, and "Maalaala Mo Kaya" (ABS-CBN) for best drama anthology.

Winners of Saturday night's minor awards included Edu Manzano and Alma Moreno (star of the night), Richard Guttierez and Iza Calzado ("most perfect you" of the night) and Bong Revilla and Charlene Gonzales (dazzling gem of the night).

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
May Maui. May Andrea. Doble Pampagana.
Bugbog Sarado
Directed by Joel C. Lamangan dgpi
VIVA
OPENS TOMORROW!

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
Red Carpet Premiere
Invitational Snack Studio Inc. and Wave 89.1 Premiere
on Oct. 14, 2003 7:30 pm
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
MTRCB RATING: R13
Regular showing on Oct. 15, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS
BASED ON A SHOCKING TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY PULITZER-PRIZE WINNER MIKE McALARY
"A SOLID THRILLER" -HSBR.Net
When you're searching for a killer, the last suspect you want to see is your son.
ROBERT DE NIRO ELIA DUSHKU FRANCES McDORMAND JAMES FRANCO
THE SUSPECT

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HOW TO DEAL<br>PG13<br>10:, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 | UNDERWORLD<br>R18<br>12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10 | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING<br>R18<br>12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20 |
| THE RUNDOWN<br>PG13<br>12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA<br>GP<br>12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO<br>R18<br>1:00, 3:15 |

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| Ali 2 | PILYA |
| Ali 3 | UNDERWORLD |
| Ali 4 | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING |
| Ali 5 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| Ali 6 | HOW TO DEAL |
| Ali 7 | HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES |

ARANETA COLISEUM

| | |
|---|---|
| OCT 15 | NCA 7-STAG DERBY |
| OCT 16 | UAAP / NCCA ALL STAR GAME |
| OCT 17 | UAAP / NCAA ALL STAR GAME |
| OCT 18 | UAAP / NCAA ALL STAR GAME |
| OCT 19 | UAAP / NCAA ALL STAR GAME |

Opens Dec. 23 2003 DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!
Call TicketNet at 911-5555

MTRCB ▶ PG-13
THE ROCK SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT CHRISTOPHER WALKEN ROSARIO DAWSON
THE RUNDOWN
BULLS, GUNS, WHIPS, GOLD AND ONE SACRED CAT

*New Int'l Action Superstar is born!*

**Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?**

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred jungle-action adventure, and the No.1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an international Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics-bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr. Fil-Am martial arts champion.

Dali, mauna na! Advance Showing TODAY
NATION-WIDE SNEAK PREVIEWS & REGULAR RUN
Sasabay ang Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro!
Regular showing starts OCT 22!

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE
HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY
"CHRIS ROCK rules!
— Fox News Channel
HEAD of STATE
Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee -- for President of the United States.
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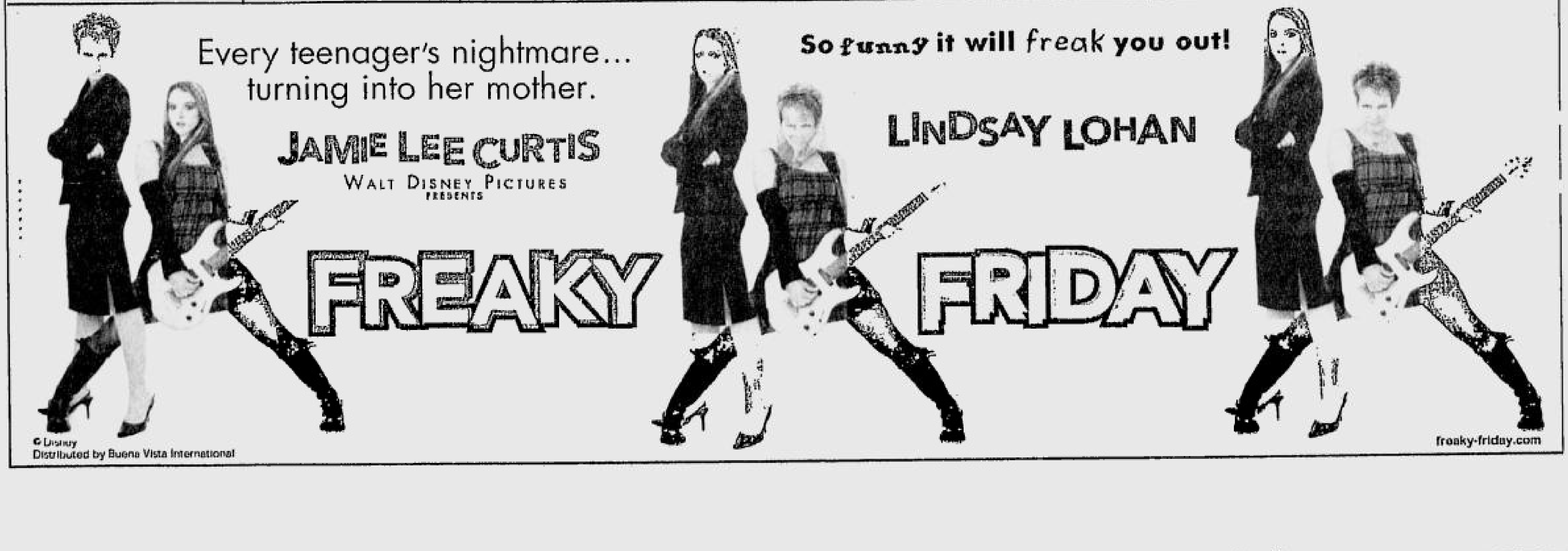
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SERNA

DE LAS ALAS

SEMBRANO and Revillame

MORENO

SANCHEZ

# Bong: I'll wait till Jinggoy is ready

## *Erap son snubbed ex-pal because 'I'm still hurting inside'*

By Marinel R. Cruz

I'VE forgiven him, but I'm still hurting inside because of what he did."

This was how actor and former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada justified his rejection of the reconciliatory hand that his erstwhile friend, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., extended to him when the two met Saturday night at the 17th Star Awards for TV ceremony at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

An eyewitness said that while the two were resting backstage, Bong attempted to shake Jinggoy's hand.

"Bong asked Jinggoy how the latter was doing," the eyewitness said. "He also told Jinggoy that he missed him. But Jinggoy ignored him and did not shake his hand."

Bong was one of the hosts of the awards show while Jinggoy was one of the awards presenters.

### Last person

The rift between the two happened after Bong and his family joined the Edsa crowd calling for the resignation of former President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

But last Monday, Jinggoy pleaded to the media not to "make a big fuss" out of the incident.

"It happened because, although I've forgiven him, I'm still hurting inside because of what he did," said the star of Tony Reyes' "Utang ng Ama." "He was the last person I expected to do that to me."

ESTRADA (with Katya Santos): He asked media not to make a fuss.

Bong said he approached Jinggoy because "I thought he was okay with everything, having seen him joke about our quarrel when he appeared on 'MTB' last week."

He said he was hurt by the way Jinggoy had rejected him but understood what his one-time friend feels.

"I feel like I've already done my part," Bong told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday. "But I want peace of mind, that's why I'll wait for that perfect time when he's ready to talk to me."

### Not ready

Korina Sanchez, winner of the best news anchor award for "TV Patrol" and best celebrity talk show host for "Morning Girls," also seemed not yet ready to forgive Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez for threatening to file a libel case against her when she called the congresswoman "bastos" on "Morning Girls."

The audience wondered if she was taunting Representative Martinez when she said: "*Hindi na po ako masyadong magsasalita at baka may masabi pa akong hindi maganda* (I will not talk much since I might say something that's not nice)."

Kris Aquino took the opportunity to thank her ABS-CBN family "who stood by me through tough times" when she received her second best celebrity talk show host trophy for "Morning Girls."

"Thanks for still believing in me," Kris said.

She added in Taglish: "A program (like 'Morning Girls') reminds me that you can leave the past behind. It reminds me that I can make my future better."

REVILLA: I thought he was okay with everything. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

The TV host dedicated her awards, not to the two "Js" in her life—to whom she dedicated her trophies last year—but to the "two people who served as my inspiration and who gave me unconditional love—my mom and my son, Josh."

### First time

John Estrada, who played Boris in "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay," dedicated his best drama actor trophy to "the woman I really love and (who) makes me complete, Vanessa."

This is the first time that John admitted publicly his relationship with former "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" co-host, Vanessa del Bianco, who was reportedly the cause of the break-up of his 10-year marriage to actress Janice de Belen with whom he has four kids.

Boy Abunda offered his best male show biz-oriented show host award to the late Inday Badiday, whom he described as "the lady who started it all."

Inday, recipient of the 2002 Ading Fernando lifetime achievement award, died last Sept. 26 after a lingering illness.

This year's lifetime achievement award went to Luz Valdez, Milagros Bernando in real life, for her invaluable contribution as an actor in the movie industry for 45 years.

An ever loyal group of Noranians, who was present Saturday night to cheer for its superstar, was visibly disappointed when Snooky Serna took home the best drama actress honor for "Habang Kapiling Ka" on GMA 7.

### Hecklers

Nora Aunor was nominated for her work in "Bituin" on ABS-CBN.

Cookie shared her award to almost every person she could think of, from her mother, former actress Mila Ocampo, to the staff members of Rustan's Department Store.

A group of hecklers, who called themselves "The Kolokoys," was also present to cheer for every ABS-CBN show that were nominated. The group is the network's response to GMA 7's "The Kurimaws," which are seen almost daily on the set of "Eat Bulaga!," this year's best variety show.

The Kolokoys were shouting Ai-Ai de las Alas' name a few minutes before presenters Bernadette Sembrano and Willie Revillame called the comedian to accept her fifth best comedy actress award.

Ai-Ai, who was wearing a black evening gown and an eccentric headdress, pulled out a piece of paper tucked in her chest and read a list of names she dedicated her award to.

People were delighted to see rival hosts Bernadette ("Wish Ko Lang" on GMA 7) and Willie ("Willingly Yours" on ABS-CBN) together in one show. Willie was given the best public service host award and "Wish Ko Lang" the best public service program award.

### Top form

The dance number of Alma Moreno, Geneva Cruz, Regine Tolentino and Rufa Mae Quinto came when even the Kolokoys were already getting bored with the five-hour awards show.

Some people in the audience remarked that Alma was still in her best form.

"*Taray ng lola mo,*" said one spectator. "*Ang bigat na ni* Alma, *pero magaling pa rin sumayaw,*" said another.

The Sex Bomb and Speed dancers were Alma's back-up dancers.

Karylle, Jolina Magdangal, Diane de la Fuente and Ciarra Sotto sang the Star Awards for TV theme song during the opening number.

Gretchen Barreto did some of Barbra Streissand's songs with instrumentalists Jong Cuenco and Toots Tolentino during the second part of the show.

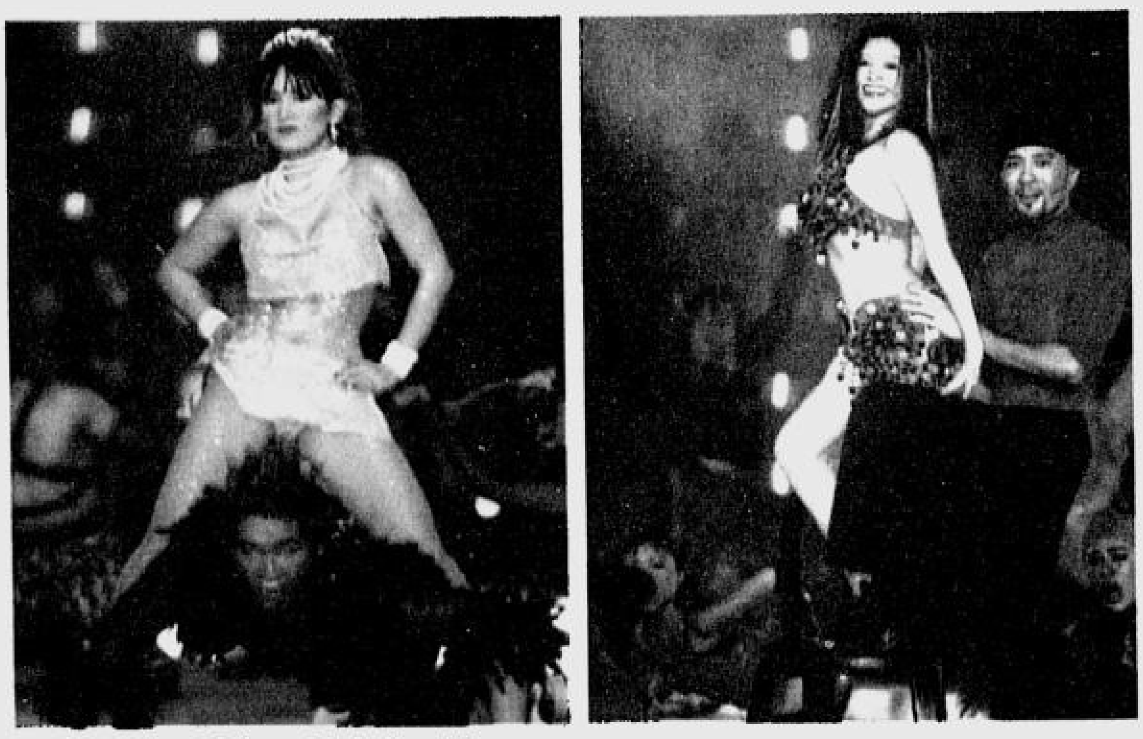
Angelika de la Cruz sang a la Thalia as a tribute to the popular Mexican soap series, "Marimar," while Dominic Ohoa, Keempee de Leon, Vhong Navarro and Epi Quizon sang the "Meteor Garden" theme song.

Two-time PMPC best original theme song composer Ogie Alcasid sang a medley of theme songs of locally produced telenovelas with Snooky, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Lani Mercado.

The other winners were Vic Sotto, best comedy actor ("Daddy Di Do Du"/GMA 7) and best male TV host, ("Eat Bula-

BONG/ A29

MORNING girls Kris and Korina



TOLENTINO and Quinto with the Speed Dancers

ESTRADA with Manzano

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# New gambit against film pirates

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

FILM and music piracy is a huge problem not just in the Philippines but in other countries as well. Even in the United States, where laws and rules are enforced more stringently than they are here, movie producers are hurting.

Film and video pirates are bleeding them dry to the tune of billions of dollars a year, and the hemorrhage hasn't been stanched yet.

Not that Hollywood isn't trying. It's come up with novel measures to prevent the pirates from taping new films off the movie screens in theaters. We're listing these new gambits, in the hope that producers and distributors here opt to use some of them in their own antipiracy campaign:

Film people now send "spies" into movie houses who are equipped with night-vision goggles, the better for them to catch pirates in the act of videotaping a film with a small camcorder.

Some advance-screening rooms are now equipped with metal detectors, to prevent would-be pirates from smuggling their camcorders into theaters.

And a new system has been invented that creates a flicker that would make the videotaped images too messy or fuzzy to be comfortable to view.

Still, producers admit that piracy will continue to take place because some pirates skip the whole advance screening deal by bribing projectionists to make clear video copies of the films about to be shown at their theaters.

Clearly, a system has to be devised to foil these "pirates' collaborators" or inside men from robbing their employers blind. Can they be required to take a "conscience pill"?

Meanwhile, at the other end of the film piracy problem, some movie people are claiming that, in certain situations, piracy can help a production make more money. —Huh?!

It is explained that this counter-strategy works for big productions with a heavy stress on visual magic and content.

Thus, people who watch a pirated copy of a highly visual film become curious about how much better the movie would look on the big screen in a theater, so they gladly pay for a ticket to watch it play in the optimum viewing situation of a movie house.

In other words, in this unusual situation, the pirated copy even serves as "advertising" for the movie as it is screened in theaters. Interesting? Yes, but please don't try this at home.

### Apec on CNN

BEGINNING Oct. 14, major Apec meetings and events, including the 15th Apec Ministerial Meeting and the CEO Summit, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, with the theme, "A World of Differences: Partnership for the Future."

CNN's television news team will deliver a comprehensive coverage on location of the major meetings. Live updates, daily reports and in-depth analysis can be viewed on CNN's primetime morning and evening shows and news programs, including "News Biz Today," "Asia Now" and "World News."

"News Biz Today" airs weekdays at 6 a.m., while "Asia Now" is telecast weekdays at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Still on CNN, the new program, "Inside the Middle East," started telecasting last Oct. 5. The monthly program gives viewers an intimate look at the distinctive people and places in that region.

"Inside the Middle East" features reports from journalists like **Christiane Amanpour, Nic Robertson** and **Jane Arraf.** The show addresses the biggest social and cultural issues of the day in the Middle East, which is ironically described as both the cradle of modern civilization and a region often overshadowed by conflict.

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# T-bill rates rise; higher yields seen in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

POLITICAL uncertainties leading to the May 2004 elections are expected to drive the benchmark treasury bill rate to 7 percent next year, according to the Bureau of Treasury.

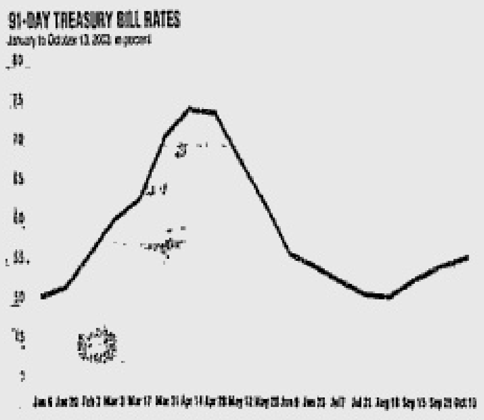
Expectations of a higher cost of borrowing have prompted the Treasury to consider holding auctions for government securities in December to raise sufficient funds for state coffers as early as possible.

Yesterday, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate, which is used by banks in pricing their loans, rose by 12.3 basis points to 5.629 percent. The 182-day and the 364-day rates also moved up by 19.6 basis points to 6.763 percent and by 13 basis points to 7.366 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the benchmark rate could succumb to pressures leading to the national elections next year.

"We expect the rates to spike up in certain months next year in the event something happens during the election period," Edeza said.

Last year, the Treasury canceled the December auctions after realizing that banks had been submitting higher binds to window-dress their books toward year's end.



91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

January to October 13, 2003 in percent

Edeza had announced the cancellation of all December auctions for 2003, but yesterday said the Treasury could change its mind.

"We are considering holding the auction in the first two weeks of December to make sure we would start 2004, which is an election year, with a healthy cash position," he said.

Holding a treasury bill and two treasury bond auctions in December would allow the government to raise an additional P15.5 billion in funds, assuming that the government would give a full award.

Yesterday, the Treasury only raised P8.65 billion as it threw away unreasonable bids for the six-month treasuries while awarding P4 billion for the 91-day and P2.5 billion for the one-year paper.

"The 182-day is always difficult to sell because nobody seems to want it. We are looking into scrapping this tenor temporarily and distribute the volume to the 91-day and the 364-day," Edeza said.

The Treasury had already reduced the volume of the six-month treasuries by P500 million and transferred the amount to the one-year paper.

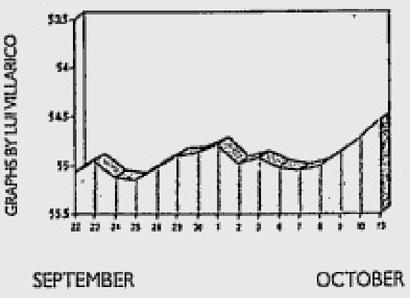
Traders said the market had been nervous due largely to political controversies and the rising budget deficit, which the government had expected to exceed P30 billion in September against a target of P22 billion.

A trader pointed out that since the 91-day rate remained below the central bank's overnight rate of 6.75 percent, the Treasury could not entice banks to buy government securities.

The government would sell P3 billion worth of three-year bonds today.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱54.535 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 13, 2003

¥108.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2003

GOLD: $371.80-372.30

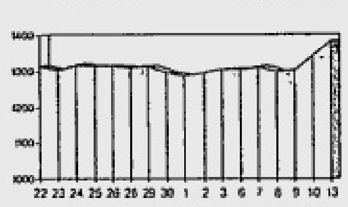
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 13, 2003

| October 13, 2003<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.847099 | 1.000000 | 54.805000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007802 | 0.009210 | 0.504800 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.409572 | 1.664000 | 91.195500 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.109600 | 0.129383 | 7.090800 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.645753 | 0.762311 | 41.778500 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.641061 | 0.756773 | 41.474900 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.491870 | 0.580653 | 31.822700 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.587203 | 0.693193 | 37.990400 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.247066 | 2.652661 | 145.379100 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.225893 | 0.266667 | 14.614700 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.490446 | 0.598972 | 31.730600 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000101 | 0.000119 | 0.006500 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021704 | 0.025621 | 1.404200 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.230634 | 0.272264 | 14.921400 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.180500 | 64.697300 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.299328 | 0.353357 | 19.365700 |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.299011 | 0.352983 | 19.345200 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134599 | 0.158894 | 8.708200 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018691 | 0.022065 | 1.209300 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.222950 | 0.263193 | 14.424300 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.075803 | 0.089485 | 4.904200 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.508249 | 0.599988 | 32.882300 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.121551 | 0.143491 | 7.864000 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.014732 | 0.017391 | 0.953100 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.121820 | 0.143808 | 7.881400 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000740 | 0.000873 | 0.047800 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.111188 | 0.131258 | 7.193600 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020169 | 0.023810 | 1.304900 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025188 | 0.029735 | 1.629600 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000531 | 0.000627 | 0.034400 |

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks at 17-month high

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended at a 17-month high yesterday, supported by brisk foreign fund inflow and bullish sentiment on other Asian stock indices.

Some traders said the killing of Muslim militant Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi on Sunday ahead of the visit of US President George W. Bush this weekend gave further impetus to the market's rally.

The Philippine stock index jumped 39.23 points, or 2.92 percent, to end at 1,384.43 points. It was the highest closing mark since April 2002, bringing the market's gains to 35.94 percent so far this year.

But some players said the market has risen too fast too soon and may encounter profit-taking at the 1,400 level. Major resistance is seen

STOCKS/ B2

## TonyBoy group closes ABC-5 deal for ₱4.8B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONSORTIUM led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco has closed the deal to acquire Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC-5) for P4.8 billion.

Well-placed sources told the INQUIRER the deal with the selling shareholders of ABC-5 was finalized last Friday and that the actual signing of the memorandum of agreement would take place in the next few days.

While there were a few items being ironed out in the MOA, the deal which would allow Cojuangco's group to buy out ABC-5's existing shareholders led by broadcast veteran Edward Tan was in the bag, a source close to Cojuangco confirmed.

Meanwhile, ABC-5 insiders said Cojuangco conducted an ocular inspection of ABC-5 a few weeks ago, but has yet to address the network's employees pending the formal signing of the deal.

However, the existing staff was given indication that the new management under Cojuangco would keep the existing manpower of ABC-5.

Another source said there were some last-minute changes in the MOA but both parties were rushing to complete the documents for signing any day now.

TONYBOY/ B3

## Extension of LRT Line 2 to Antipolo gets Neda backing

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has approved in principle the P11.7-billion Light Rail Transit Line 2 East extension project that will extend the current Line 2 to Masinag in Antipolo.

Light Rail Transit Authority Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said in an interview that the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has likewise expressed willingness to fund the project.

However, he said the government, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, still needed to source counterpart funds for the project for the JBIC funding to be granted.

Also, the project would still need to pass a final review by the Neda although it had already been "approved in principle."

"We've asked the DOTC to provide funds for this so we can have counterpart funding for the project. This will give residents of the East a chance to really benefit from a mass railway system," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

The four-kilometer railway extension project would start at Santolan in Pasig, the end-station of the existing LRT Line 2, and end at the Masinag Junction in Antipolo, Rizal.

EXTENSION/ B3

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Oct. 13, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4 | 4 | 37,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18 | 18.25 | 17.75 | 17.75 | 151,900 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 45.5 | 47 | 45.5 | 46.5 | 1,184,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 660 | 660 | 660 | 660 | 190 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 2,200 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 34.5 | 35.5 | 34.5 | 35 | 221,800 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 520,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 28 | 29.5 | 28 | 29.5 | 1,599,700 |
| Philippine National Bank | 27 | 27.5 | 27 | 27 | 127,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 3,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 32 | 32 5 | 32 | 32.5 | 19,600 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 10,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1570 | 1580 | 1570 | 1570 | 3,240 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1280 | 1280 | 1280 | 1280 | 2,260 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 40,500 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.71 | 0.73 | 0.71 | 0.72 | 5,790,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 730 | 780 | 730 | 780 | 127,120 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.047 | 0.047 | 0.047 | 0.047 | 6,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.047 | 0.048 | 0.047 | 0.048 | 1,400,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.78 | 0.8 | 0.78 | 0.79 | 10,740,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co | 0.165 | 0.2 | 0.165 | 0.2 | 60,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 720 | 725 | 720 | 720 | 331,690 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 450,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 800,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15 25 | 15.25 | 15 | 15 | 326,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 22.5 | 23 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 1,731,900 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.06 | 2.08 | 2.06 | 2.08 | 7,708,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 2 06 | 2.06 | 2 | 2 | 52,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1,408,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2 85 | 2.85 | 2.8 | 2.85 | 1,317,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 200,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 20,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3 15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 300,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 2.44 | 4 | 2.44 | 4 | 9,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 30 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 8,300 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 478,300 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 3,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 55 | 56.5 | 55 | 56.5 | 121,400 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 63 | 63 | 62.5 | 63 | 413,100 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 200,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.9 | 5 | 4.9 | 4.95 | 20,105,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.45 | 3.5 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3,791,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 1,300,000 |
| APC GROUP Inc. | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0 06 | 0.06 | 200,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 1,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 40,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.65 | 0.68 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 20,680,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 300,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 720,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 1,120,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 215,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 19.25 | 19.5 | 19 | 19.25 | 2,174,600 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.095 | 0.095 | 790,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 30,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.08 | 1.1 | 1.04 | 1.08 | 13,960,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 9,790,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 450,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 300,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 70,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 320,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 200,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,800,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc | 0 35 | 0 4 | 0.35 | 0.38 | 60,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. A | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 10,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 400,000 |
| Pryce Corp. | 0 2 | 0 2 | 0 2 | 0.2 | 200,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 2,060,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 20,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 50,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils Inc. | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 90,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc | 0 35 | 0 35 | 0 34 | 0.34 | 240,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 27.5 | 28 | 27.5 | 28 | 200,300 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref. | 775 | 775 | 775 | 775 | 8,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series L | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series S | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,600 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,800 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,600 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 8,185,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 100,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 1,200,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,820,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.14 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.18 | 24,408,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 80,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 200,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.195 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.2 | 280,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 101,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 70,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 2,432,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 62,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.225 | 0.23 | 5,500,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.29 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 5,640,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 44,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0 009 | 0.009 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 18,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0038 | 0.004 | 0.0038 | 0.0038 | 18,000,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 3,200,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 58,000,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.01 | 0.011 | 62,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 100,000 |

# Stocks at 17-month . . .

From page B1

at 1,480 points.

"It's flow driven," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management. "Foreign inflows are coming generally into Asia equities... We're benefitting from the flow. Asian economies would benefit from a global recovery which the market is expecting for the coming year." Turnover climbed to P892.67 million against P815.89 million on Friday. Value turnover averaged about P400 million to P500 million in previous months.

Gainers were in a two-to-one majority.

The military said al-Ghozi had been killed in a shootout on Sunday in Mindanao. *Reuters*

## DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Vivant Corp. agreed to redeem all outstanding preferred shares to enable their conversion and reissuance as new common shares.

***

ELECTED to the audit committee of Filinvest Development Corp. were Alfredo Asuncion, Jonathan Gotianun and Efren Gutierrez. Josephine Yap, Asuncion and Gutierrez are members of the nomination committee while compensation committee members are Mercedes Gotianun, Yap and Asuncion.

***

FILSYN Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on December 9, 11:30 a.m. at the Penthouse of Lepanto Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati Ctiy.

***

EVER Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.022 to P0.033 per share.

***

BENGUET Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on December 17, 3 p.m. at the 5/F, Sign of the Anvil, Equitable-PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of November 4 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

NEXTSTAGE Inc. said that the decrease in the trading price of its shares was due to the sale of 263,573 shares by a shareholder who had to divest his interests in the company due to his assumption of public office. The shares were sold at the floor price of P2.85 per share.

***

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on November 28, 3 p.m. at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom of Holiday Inn Manila Galleria, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of October 24 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

# Anti-kidnap czars hit RP

**MR. BEARBULL**

*Ron Nathan*

ON Saturday, I took my family out for lunch in a delightful Greek restaurant at Rockwell. On the reception counter was an object that resembled a large vase. "What's that?" asked my wife. "It's a Greek urn," I replied. "What's a Greek urn?" she asked. "About 5 euros a day," I said, quickly getting out of the way.

This week, Nobel prizes have been awarded for Chemistry, Economics and Peace. These were awarded to two British, two Americans and an Iraqi. A eunuch won the NO BALL prize.

The different clothes worn by males and females confuse a 6-year-old boy in my daughter's class so the teacher asked his mother to explain it to him. "Johnny, I want you to unzip my dress." After much fumbling, he did so. "Now, I want you to remove my bra." Again, with some difficulty, he managed it. "Now, take off my panties." Blushing, he did so. "Now Johnny, I don't want you to ever wear my clothes again."

The same boy asked, "Mom, what is a transvestite?" "Go into the bedroom and ask your father. She'll tell you."

I asked my wife how she liked her eggs. "Unfertilized."

Two cannibals were having dinner. "I don't like my mother-in-law very much." "Well, in that case, just eat your French fries."

My secretary is so clumsy, she tripped over a cordless telephone.

A man was charged with urinating in the street. He has asked to be tried by a jury of his pee'ers.

The practice of circumcision in the Philippines is petering out.

Did you hear about the dyslexic pimp that bought a warehouse?

Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants? In case they get a hole in one.

What do you call a man who can play the drum without arms or legs? Clever dick.

* * *

FROM Monday through Thursday, the stock market was in a state of necrophilia, dead boring. On Friday, it opened slightly higher on Wall Street but around 10 a.m., it suddenly went berserk. SMPH went P6.40, P6.50, P6.60, and P6.70, all in a space of a few minutes and all the other leaders followed suit. ALI jumped 0.20, AC 0.15, TEL P20, GLO P25, MERB 0.75, ABSP P1, and so on. In all, 60 stocks went up and hardly any went down. Nobody could understand what was happening and all sorts of rumors were flying around.

I received a text message saying that GMA had persuaded Danding to agree to be her running mate. This would ensure plenty of money for the election campaign plus millions of coconuts to distribute to the poor. But the kicker was that the dynamic duo had secured the approval of President Bush, the Pope and most important, the 4 guys from F4. If true, they will surely be a shoo-in but the opposition, after seeing actor Arnold Schwarzenegger become governor of California, will probably field FPJ or Efren "Bata" Reyes with Diana Zubiri or Maui Taylor.

It could be a very close election because most of the computers will break down in the intense heat; 4,357 barrios do not yet have power so the computers will have to be adapted to run on Gasul, and a large number will be hacked into and the results changed. An Adam and Eve virus will be sent out, which takes 2 bytes out of the apple, and an Oedipus virus will be let loose, which falls in love with the motherboard. It will be sheer chaos and the results will probably show a turnout of 180 percent, just for one candidate.

At present, GMA has filed charges against Sen. Lacson for an alleged rub out of bank robbers, against Danding for alleged misuse of bank funds, and against Rocco for parking his car in a tow-away zone. The latter is the most serious and carries a sentence of life without parole. The strongest opponent will be Efren Reyes. He has the balls to win, and although he knows nothing about politics and cannot speak English, he is such a likeable fellow that I think he will garner a lot of votes.

Another text message said that the Philippines had declared war on China by attacking the Spratly Islands, and then immediately surrendered. This would mean that we would be absorbed by the world's fastest-growing economy and we would no longer have to worry about our huge P3,140,000,000,000 debt, which is going higher still in the years ahead. At a stroke, we would benefit from China's huge trade surplus and undervalued currency. We would become a base for manufacturing and our unemployment problem would disappear. We would even get rid of the Senate!

Seriously, what happened was that one foreign broker decided that the Philippines had been left out of the huge Asian rally, and decided to put in P94 million. This caused a minor panic among other foreign brokers and they joined in, boosting the net inflow on Friday to P141 million. This is only about $2.6 million and would not have had the slightest effect on the Nikkei or the Hang Seng, but our market is so illiquid and depressed, that in the absence of sellers, prices just went wild. Another factor is the impending arrival of President George Bush, so this rally could fairly be described as a Bush fire, which might spread for a few more days.

Today, the pattern was repeated with ABN investing P100 million and SB Equities P98 million. All the other foreign brokers were buyers except PEPI, which sold P141 million. Even so, foreign brokers were net buyers of P228 million and the Phisix jumped another 39 points to its highest level in more than a year. It was good to see the rally accompanied by relatively high volume.

There are certainly no compelling fundamental reasons. Moody's upgraded the debt ratings of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia to their highest level since 2000, and also had kind words to say about India. But the Philippines--nada! Last month, the government overspent by P8 billion. At the moment, they are spending millions on prettying-up Malacañang, even though President Bush will not be there long enough to notice. The Bureau of Customs undershot its target and the budget deficit is looking to be in danger of exceeding P201 billion.

The only reason why the peso has improved is because the dollar is so weak. The yen, euro, pound and other currencies are so high that their respective governments are getting worried. The baht has fallen from '56 to 39, now 15.60 points below the peso. The yen is 108.40, the euro 1.18, and the pound 1.67. The peso is still Asia's worst performing currency and the government is hoping to raise another $1.2 billion before the end of the year. So far, the central bank has done a good job of keeping interest rates near historically low levels but can they continue to do so? The 91-day treasury bill rose today by 13 basis points to 5.63 percent and may rise to 7 percent by the second quarter, according to a government spokesman.

I have started learning Mandarin and practicing Kung Fu, just in case.

*mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

2 days to go before...

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PROGRAM OF
SEMINARS/COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

DAY 1 - OCTOBER 16, 2003 - THURSDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Ammonium Nitrate Water Solution for Mangoes by: Inca Plastics Phils., Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Presentation on the Growout Culture of Pampano (Trachinotus Blochii) and Mangrove Jack (Lutjanus Argentimaculatus) by: Santeh Feeds Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Cost-Reducing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technologies in Vegetable Production by: Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A WTCMM)
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Roasted Organic Chicken by: Eva Rose Pua - Delifresh
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm by PhilFoodex

DAY 2 - OCTOBER 17, 2003 - FRIDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
10:30 am - 5:30 pm
- Capability Enhancement Seminar on SME Processors (1. DTI's Support to the Capability Enhancement of the SME Food Processors to be Globally Competitive. 2. An Overview of the US Bio Terrorism Act 3. Requirements & Regulations Needed by the Food Processors 4. Good Food Processing Practices 5. Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures 6. Introduction to Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points 7. Food & Packaging Trends) by: Department of Trade and Industry (Seminar Rm. 1)
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Why Liquid Feeding Will Work for You? WONDERing on How to Eliminate Odors? Go Organic! By: The Infarmco Group (Seminar Rm. 2)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Using Alpha-Galacosidase Enzymes for Corn-Soya Diets/Plant Extracts as Natural Feed Additive in Animal Health and Production by. Philchema (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Honeybee Production by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm by Tefal
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Business in Meat Processing - Ham Making (Chicken & Pork)/Embutido by: Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spices & Food Mix House
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Cooking with Herbs by: Bert Clemena - Herbs Society (OPTA)

DAY 3 - OCTOBER 18, 2003 - SATURDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Enhancing Piglet Performance with Ready to Use Antibodies / Protected n-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Fertilium™ Improves Litter Size in Sows by: Agrispecialist, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Food Safety of Genetically Modified Corn and Soybean in the Philippines by. Monsanto Philippines, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 2)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Lifetime Income Through Mango Farming by: Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Go Organic: It can Mean Your Life! (1. Organic Rice Farming 2. Organic Vegetables/Salad Greens Cultivation 3. Village Level Sasso Free Range Chicken Growing) by: Organic Producers Trade Association (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)
9:30 am - 11:00 am Ornamental Plants Production & Landscaping by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Meat Specialties for Business (Siomai, Korean BBQ, Roast Chicken, Skinless Longanisa) by: Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spicies and Food Mix House
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Organic Vegetable Power by: Shai Tamayo - My Goodness (OPTA)

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# TonyBoy . . .

From page B1

The Cojuangco group's due-diligence audit on ABC-5 was concluded last month. The price the group would pay included not just the controlling stake in ABC-5 but all the assets as well.

The acquisition of a local content provider like ABC-5 is expected to complement Cojuangco's satellite TV business, Dream Broadcasting Corp.

ABC-5 was first granted a congressional franchise under RA 2945 in 1960. It operated as a radio and television network from 1960 until 1972 when it was shut down when Martial Law was declared.

After the fall of the Marcos regime, the television network was revived. It broke ground at its new headquarters in Novaliches, Quezon City, in 1990 under a group of new stockholders led by Edward Tan. It resumed commercial operations in 1992 and acquired a new franchise to operate in 1994.

ABC-5 has 15 stations and more than 100 cable TV affiliates nationwide.

# Extension of LRT Line 2 . . .

From page B1

Cruz said the local government units of Pasig, Cainta, Antipolo and Marikina have committed their support for the project.

The LRT Line 2's second phase is also undergoing construction and is set to start commercial operations by April next year.

This will partially complete the 13.8-kilometer double-track railway line between Santolan and Recto in Manila via Marcos Highway, Aurora Blvd., Magsaysay and Legarda Avenues.

Phase 2 covers the Cubao to Legarda stretch of the line, while phase 3 involves the remainder of the P31.4-billion project.

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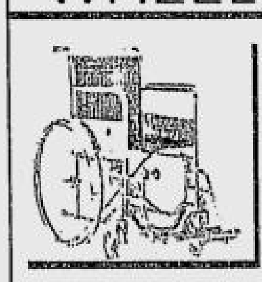

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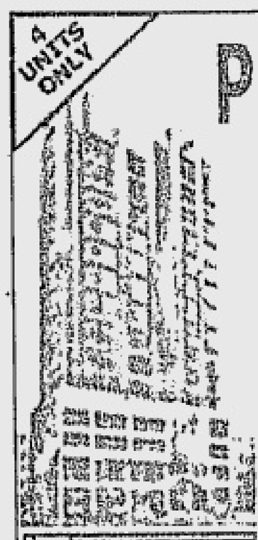

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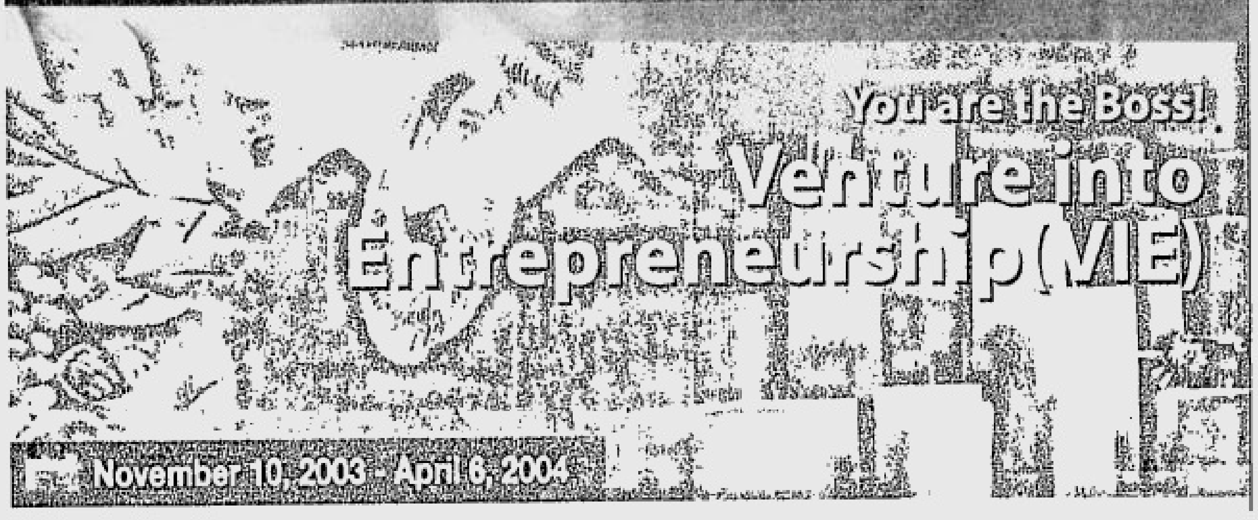

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 19, 2003

| ASSETS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash and Cash Items | P | 306,286,432.47 |
| Due from Bangko Sentral | | 1,143,236,026.02 |
| Due from Other Banks | | 1,118,470,608.75 |
| Interbank Loans Receivable | | 365,000,000.00 |
| Trading Account Securities (Net) | | 103,605,010.02 |
| Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net) | | 6,551,395,184.08 |
| Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net) | | 17,629,974,355.56 |
| Equity Investments (Net) | | 26,200,000.00 |
| Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net) | | 1,497,498,285.01 |
| Other Assets (Net) | | |
| Property Owned/Acquired | | 1,805,453,134.86 |
| Others | | 1,281,370,258.34 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | P | 31,828,489,295.11 |
| **LIABILITIES** | | |
| Demand Deposits | | 690,105,562.54 |
| Savings Deposits | | 19,899,256,756.32 |
| Time Deposits | | 5,990,390,514.64 |
| Due to Bangko Sentral | | 8,796,000.00 |
| Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders | | 123,832,859.51 |
| Bills Payable: | | |
| BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs | | 15,109,159.56 |
| Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits | | 37,195,582.30 |
| Other Liabilities | | 767,546,328.00 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | P | 27,532,232,762.87 |
| **CAPITAL ACCOUNTS** | | |
| Capital Stock | | 1,795,015,200.00 |
| Surplus | | 2,202,005,421.46 |
| Surplus Reserves | | 299,235,910.78 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | P | 4,296,256,532.24 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | P | 31,828,489,295.11 |
| **CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS** | | |
| Bills for Collection | | .815,403.17 |
| Assets Held Under Trust and | | |
| Investment Management Agreements | | 854,5[illegible] 579.03 |
| Invested in: | | |
| Government Securities | | 300,082,125.63 |
| Other Securities, Debt Instrumen d Shares of Stock | | 29,388,366.63 |
| Other Assets | | 25,106,086.77 |
| Accountabilities | | |
| Trust & Other Fiduciary | | 59,181,363.45 |
| Common Trust Funds | | 287,365.83 |
| Investment/Fund Managemei | | 695,106,849.75 |
| Other Contingent Accounts | | 10,912,505.09 |
| TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS | P | 867,803,487.29 |

| Additional Information | |
|---|---|
| 1 Deposits of | |
| a) Governm[illegible] | |
| b) Bank[illegible] | 17,498,399.16 |
| c) Trust Department | 524,945,994.28 |
| a. Total Non-Performing Loans | 1,260,362,868.12 |
| b. Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets | 2,080,196,141.96 |
| General Loan Loss Reserve | 175,493,883.61 |
| Specific Loan Loss Reserve | 649,402,212.48 |
| Total DOSRI Loans/Advances | 1,890,277,885.79 |
| Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances | |
| g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio | 6.25% |
| Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio | 9.87% |
| Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio | |
| Return on Equity | 8.09% |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
City of Makati

We, NOLI S GOMEZ and PASCUAL M GARCIA III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) NOLI S GOMEZ
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M GARCIA, III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this October [illegible] 2003 at the City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. [illegible]32080502 issued at Manila on 15 January 2003 and No. 15488212 issued at Quezon City on 28 January 2003

Doc No. [illegible]
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Page No. [illegible]
Series of 2003

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IBP OR No. 530562 Mla. 1-02-03

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Vice Chairman

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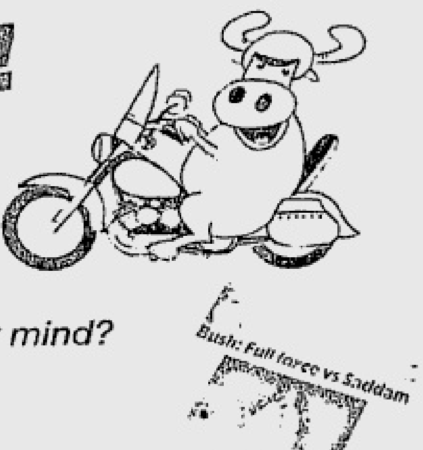
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# NAGKAKAISANG BULAKENYO PARA SA SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO

## Tugon ng Bulakenyo sa Panawagan ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

**Nais naming ipabatid sa madla, sa pamamagitan ng bukas na liham na ito ...**

Ang aming kasiyahan at kaligayahan sa naging desisyon ng ating mahal na **Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** na ipagpatuloy pa ang kanyang **paglilingkod sa sambayanang Pilipino**. At sa kagalakang ito, kami sa lalawigan ng Bulacan ay nagpapahayag ng aming lubos na pakikiisa at pagsuporta kay Pangulong Gloria sa kanyang mga layunin at programa ngayon at sa darating pang panahon. Kami ay naninindigan at muli pang maninindigan na si Pangulong Gloria ang sagot sa pangangailangan ng panahon upang ang ating bansa ay makabalik sa landas ng kaunlaran at ng kadakilaan.

Sa paninindigang ito, aming ipinababatid ang aming pagbubuklod-buklod sa ilalim
ng pamumuno ng aming
**Gobernador Josefina "Josie" M. dela Cruz**
**at Bise Gobernador Rely S. Plamenco,**
na siyang kaagapay ng Pangulong Gloria sa paglilingkod-bayan.

Si Pangulong Gloria at Gob. Josie ay mayroong magkatugmang layunin sa paglilingkod para sa kabutihan ng mamamayan. Kapwa sila may malawak na pananaw para sa pag-unlad ng pamayanan. Iisa ang tibok ng kanilang puso para sa dalisay na paglilingkod. Kapwa matapat, matatag, mahusay at magaling sa pamamahala.

Kaya't tungo sa higit pang pagsulong ng aming lalawigan at ng ating bansang Pilipinas, kami ay naninindigan para sa isang sama-samang pagkilos at paggalaw. Kaisa ni Pangulong Gloria , Gob. Josie at Bise Gob. Rely, kaming mga Mambabatas at mga Punong Bayan sa lalawigan ng Bulacan ay lubos na naniniwala na sa dakilang pagbubuklod na ito, tayo ay nakasisiguro ng panato para sa sambayanang Pilipino. tungo sa ating minimithi na isang matatag na Republika at higit pang maunlad na lalawigan.

Sama-samang nilagdaan ngayong ika-10 ng Oktubre, 2003 kaalinsabay ng ika-12 taong anibersaryo ng pagkakapasa ng Local Government Code, sa Lalawigan ng Bulacan.

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Para sa Byan ng Obando

Mayor EDUARDO V. ROQUERO
Para sa Siyudad ng San Jose del Monte

Mayor BARTOLOME DR. RAMOS
Para sa Byan ng Sta. Maria

# Ngayon na Pilipino. Ngayon na Bulakenyo.Tayo na!

ADVT.

### MORE GOV'T ASSISTANCE

# UCPB deposit base down to ₱60B as of July '03

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE P20-BILLION financial assistance extended by the government to United Coconut Planters Bank in July was not enough to arrest the deterioration of the bank's financial position.

The bank was hit by heavy withdrawals after the Supreme Court ruled in December 2001 that the coconut levy funds were public funds. Withdrawals from December 2001 to July this year reached P36 billion.

As of July this year, UCPB's deposit base stood at only about P60 billion, down from P92 billion in December 2001 when the Supreme Court issued the ruling. A P5-billion government deposit made in July artificially propped up the bank's deposit level.

Of the P15-billion infused by the government through the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. into UCPB in July (as the first P5 billion was advanced in April), UCPB used more than P14.6 billion to service withdrawals.

On July 11, 2003, Sandiganbayan ruled that the 72.2-percent sequestered UCPB stake was paid for with coconut levy funds. This ruling is under appeal.

The government is prepared to help the bank not only with financial assistance but with an "unlimited amount" of deposits once Sandiganbayan rules with finality that the 72.2-percent sequestered UCPB shares belong to the public, according to sources.

UCPB's financial report showed that the central bank might have already provided a total of P20 billion in emergency assistance to the bank from December 2001 to July 2003. This was on top of the P20 billion that PDIC had infused.

While UCPB's total assets slightly improved to P92.5 billion in July (from P91.7 billion prior to the PDIC assistance) and liabilities also declined to P92 billion (from P94 billion in June), the bank's net loss remained substantial at about P2 billion while its capital adequacy ratio was down to almost negative 10 percent.

The BSP requires banks to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 10 percent.

UCPB's finances suffered as bad loans swelled through the years, eating up its earnings, and eroding its capital which has not been replenished since 1986.

The burden of re-capitalizing UCPB was placed in the hands of the government after its stockholders rejected the first option for the state to sell the bank, preserve its assets and put in escrow the proceeds of the sale until the ownership issue was resolved.

# CEOs getting more involved in social dev't projects

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

**FEAUTURE**

REPUTABLE Philippine and multinational companies claim that they are in business not just to generate profit, but also to help communities through various social development projects.

The number of companies and chief executive officers getting involved in various social and environmental projects has been growing steadily through the years. Yet, there is still a call for more CEOs to get involved in corporate responsibility projects, and for those already into it to get more involved. They are also reminded to clearly define their companies' corporate social responsibility policies with their employees and communities.

This was one of the major findings of the first Benchmarking Corporate Citizenship Practice 2003 Report prepared by the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

The report, the first of its kind in the Philippines and in Asia, was based on the self-assessment of corporate citizenship projects.

## Self-assessment

Pedro E. Roxas, chair and CEO of the CADP Group of companies and co-chair of PBSP's Center for Corporate Citizenship, said that 49 companies participated in the survey, 82 percent of which are from Luzon and Metro Manila and the rest from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Of the respondents, 80 percent are large industries, 15 percent are small and medium-sized companies and the remaining 5 percent are corporate foundations.

Companies with the "best" corporate citizenship practices rate themselves with the highest score of 5.

Roxas said the survey had showed that companies gave their leadership a high rating of 4.3, showing that CEOs have become more involved in defining and pursuing the social mission of their companies. But leadership could still be improved.

"Following standard indicators, CEOs are supposed to play a more central role in championing the principles and practices of corporate citizenship by behaving in ways that are consistent with the company's values responsive to the expectations of the society," Roxas said.

The report showed that most companies pursued corporate citizenship projects in the form of social investment, environmental sustainability, corporate-community partnerships and managing workplace concerns.

## Bigger challenge

Roxas stressed that the size of the company did not influence the quality of corporate citizenship, although because of limited resources, smaller companies find it more challenging to translate their commitment and principles into action.

Broken down into industries, the finance and mining sectors ranked the highest in overall corporate citizenship practice. The wholesale and retail trade come in last, which means that corporate citizenship practices in these sectors are still underdeveloped.

The report also showed that there was still much to be improved in the areas of measuring and reporting the results of corporate citizenship projects. Most companies, however, feel that their projects were making positive impacts on their target beneficiaries, the employees and their reputation as a company.

"Majority of the respondents claim they have strong evidence that prove that their employees are proud to be part of the company because of its corporate citizenship practice; and that their employees feel that the social agenda of the company fulfills their personal social responsibility," Roxas said.

"The majority of the respondents claim that there was also a strong evidence that supports the view that corporate citizenship helps develop loyalty and commitment among the company staff, and that corporate citizenship practice begets customer loyalty to the brand, and thereby places their products in a better market position than the products of companies without social involvement," he added.

## Good leadership

The report showed that nearly all companies had seen the importance of a well-placed program design and strategy to develop and implement a successful corporate citizenship program. It said that with the proper leadership, a company will go a long way in sustaining these programs.

ROXAS

"Since leadership is an essential element in developing, implementing and sustaining the action of corporate citizenship, there is a need for the business community to nurture a new breed of leaders with clear social vision and accountability to the society," Roxas said.

"The CEOs of today have the greater responsibility to demonstrate to the new guards that business success and sustainability can go hand in hand with social and environmental concerns. And we can only do that if we start to consciously improve our ways of doing things and establish a strong business case for doing corporate social responsibility," he added.

# Shell earmarks ₱2.2B for capex

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday said it was earmarking about P2.2 billion for capital expenditures in 2004 amid an upgrade in its refinery and the down scaling of operations in the Pandacan oil terminal.

Edgar Chua, newly appointed Pilipinas Shell country chair, said in an interview that the amount was about the same as what the company had set aside for capex in 2003.

"Aside from projects involving our refinery and the Pandacan terminal, our capex for next year would cover the cost of additional service stations and new liquefied petroleum cylinders," Chua said.

He said Pilipinas Shell had about 1,000 existing service stations in the country and it was planning to add at least 10 new ones next year.

Also yesterday, Pilipinas Shell launched its new diesel product that was compliant to new product specifications under the Clean Air Act.

The law says that starting Jan. 1, diesel products should contain no more than 0.05 percent sulfur by volume.

Chua said production of low-sulfur diesel would cost the company between 30 centavos and 50 centavos per liter, but that it had chosen not to pass this on to consumers yet.

Last year, local oil companies raised prices of gasoline by 60 centavos a liter for the cost incurred in lowering aromatic and benzene contents.

Oil executives had said the actual cost of cleaner gasoline was between 80 centavos and P1.20 a liter.

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### AUCTION SALE

I&G YUPANGCO PAWN & JEWELRY SHOP INC Cattleya Bldg., Alabang Muntinlupa City Pledges as of Mar-Apr '03 will bew auctioned on Oct. 28 '03 - 8:30AM J.Flor-Auctioneer

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the Single Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM)/Wildcat Class Gunboats (ROK)** of the Philippine Navy, which shall be done in the Republic of Korea (ROK). It has an approved budget of **Two Hundred and Eighty-eight Million Pesos (Php 288,000,000.00)**, chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from ROK shipbuilding/ship repair companies and other such companies accredited by the ROK government to do the upgrade project thereat shall be entertained

The bid documents shall be available for issuance starting **October 7, 2003** until **October 17, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of a registration fee amounting to **Twenty-eight Thousand and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 28,800.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day of the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 17, 2003 at 3:00 PM** (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM gunboats at the ROK Navy Shipyard, Chin Hae Naval Base in Busan, ROK upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the bids, and upon prior request from the Camp Commander of Chin Hae Naval Base

The deadline for submission of bid envelopes is on **October 31, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **9:15 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(Originally Signed)
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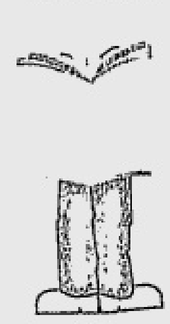

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"Day is done but LOVE unfailing dwells with her forever"

## JOSEFA GOTAUCO DEL MUNDO

*Joined her Creator*
*on October 13, 2003 at the age of 103.*

Her children **Luz**, **Bubie** and
**Aida**, **Pol** and **Josie**,
**Ting** and **Elisa**,

Her grandchildren **Buddy** and **Maripi**,
**Noel** and **Marianne**, **Tina** and **Trina**,
**Ed** and **Jocelyn**, **Michele** and **Vivian**,
**Nicolas** and **Mary**, **Ben** and **Paula**,
**Toti** and **Imelda**, **Anton** and **Anjou**,
**Nikko** and **Gina**, **Andy** and **Agoo**,

Her great grandchildren **Beau**, **Christian** and **Joaquin**,
**Matthew**, **Elisa**, **Nicolas**, **Julian**, **Mimi** and **Sophie**,
**Monica**, **Mica**, **Melissa** and **Angelo**,
her brothers and sisters, relatives and friends
celebrate her birth to eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen,
Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 16, 2003
at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque,
after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass at
Santuario de San Antonio.

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## DEATH NOTICES

### LORETO T. MANERA

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 79
His body lies in state at 21 Capistrano St., Hagonoy,
Taguig, Metro Manila.
Interment will be today, Oct. 14, 2003
at Garden of Memories, Pateros, Manila.

### MIROPE C. REYES

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 10, 2003 at the age of 71.
Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.
Interment will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at the
Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

### JOSE MA. LUIS A. LAGDAMEO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 12, 2003 at the age of 18.
His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati City.
Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at the Manila
Memorial Park Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque City.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

---

## SALUD SANDOVAL FERRERA

**of Coron, Palawan and Pasig City**

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 12, 2003
at the age of 89 years

Her bereaved children **CLARO**, **FLORINA (NENE) VINSON**,
and **MARIETTA (ETTA) & PAUL PFLIMLIN**; grandson, **JUAN PAOLO**;
brother **Alfonso**; sister **Josefa Dera**; relatives and friends request the
pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at THE ARLINGTON EAST The Garden Chapels,
1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be at FERRERA MEMORIAL GARDEN, Baras, Rizal.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

**NIPPON LIFE PHILIPPINES PAYS A CLAIM**

Nippon Life Philippines recently paid a claim to the family of the late Ramon C. Rivas. Shown in photo from left to right are Mr. Christopher Caluag, Senior manager for Policy Services of Nippon Life, Mr. Joselito Marchan, Financial Planner – Greenhills Branch, Maria Desiree Rivas, daughter of insured, Ms. Rosita Rivas, mother of insured, Ms. Lucette Natividad – Agency Dev't. Manager – Greenhills Branch, Rebecca D. Rivas, wife of insured, Mr. Tomohito Kanno, SVP for Marketing and Mercy Aquino, Unit Manager – Greenhills Branch.

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Topics are: The Macro And Micro Of Marketing. Marketing Mix In Today's Business Environment, Consumer Behavior; Crucial Areas In Marketing Segmentation, Targeting And Positioning; and New Ideas In The New Millennium.

Speakers are: Ricardo C. de Vera, President, Pinpoint Direct Consultancy Center; Nina G. Infortuno, Professor for Advertising in the Marketing Cluster, Ateneo Graduate School; Benjie C. Encarnacion, AVP, Market Intelligence, Nestle Philippines, Inc.; Miguel C. Ramos, President, Aspac Advertising, Inc.; and Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr., Marketing Consultant & Full Professor, College of Business and Economics, De La Salle University-Manila.

| | | |
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| Schedule | October 21, 22 & 24, 2003 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)<br>1:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.<br>ACCEED – AIM Conference Center, Makati City | |
| Course Fee | PMA Member | P 5,500.00 |
| | Non-PMA Member | P 6,000.00 |

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## FOR HOUSING INDUSTRY'S SAKE

# Developers want leadership continuity

By Tessa Salazar

STRESSING the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association is "apolitical" and had never participated in partisan politics, some member-developers said they just wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo to run for the sake of continuity of the policies and reforms instituted in the housing development sector.

Creba is the biggest organization of real estate practitioners in the country.

"At this point when the economy is really in a bad shape, we cannot afford (another transition). If only for the purpose of continuity, we should look forward to the election of President Macapagal. It will help the economy and the country quite a lot," said Techie P. Bautista, Creba vice president for external affairs.

Bautista said that "instead of having to start from zero all over again (with a newly elected president), GMA's continuation will fast-track housing development reforms.

### Good for business group

"For as long as government stays on and the projects are continued, the policies are not changed midstream, businessmen would be comfortable," she added.

Creba director Jaime A. Cura said last week's announcement could finally end all speculations.

"It's good for the business group. Any situation of uncertainty is not helpful to business planning, especially when it concerns investments," he said.

"For others, she will be at least one candidate whose track record is already clear to the nation. The others are all still speculative. Their claims have to be tested. This one has been tested," Cura added, saying those are some of the immediate benefits that finally an announcement today can help bring about.

Cura said that during her short stint, GMA has been able to put in place what some of the developers had been asking previous administrations for, but for some reasons had not been granted.

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**'THANKS GMA!'**
**President Macapagal, center, receives a Creba resolution from Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. expressing gratitude for her "enormous support" to the housing industry. Applauding her are HUDDC chair Michael T. Defensor, Creba Social Housing Foundation president Demetrio Posadas, other Creba officers and directors together with Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles, Creba's 2003 Developer of the Year awardee.**

### Motivation

"Maybe her being an economist has motivated her to appreciate the multiplier effect of housing in the economy at large and to try to bring to reality the oft-repeated principle that housing is an engine of growth for the economy," said Cura.

Creba considers one of GMA's major achievements for housing development the suspension of the requirement of Department of Agrarian Reform clearance for the conversion of land after land had already been classified by either legislature or by the acts of the municipal council.

This had been considered by Creba a "big obstacle" to the housing program. Creba members also said GMA made sure funds for housing would be available to fast track housing construction.

"The red tape in the housing sector was reduced," said Franklin Fuentebella, Creba director.

"Before, conceptualizing a project to developing it would take three years, as you had to pass through more than 100 signatures. Now it's down to around 35 signatures," he elaborated.

A new regulation promulgated by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, which stated that if one's land had been zoned by the local government unit as commercial or industrial zone, there would not be any need to go to the Department of Agrarian Reform to ask for a conversion permit, which would take more than a year.

"This fast tracks the housing projects of the developers," said Fuentebella.

### Firm commitment

"There is the firm commitment of the government financial institutions in terms of amounts that they are supposed to set aside for housing. First, the amounts compared to previous years have generally been more. The budgets contributed by the different financial institutions are now much bigger," Cura said.

Before going to the Centennial Expo to meet the senior citizens of Pampanga and make "the announcement of the year," Oct. 4, President Macapagal made a stop at the Holiday Inn Resort in Mimosa Leisure Estate where the 4000-strong Creba was holding the Creba-Housing and Urban Developers Coordinating Council national convention.

After handing out the award to "developer of the year" Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. she left, leaving in her wake developers all abuzz about what HUDCC chair Mike Defensor said the night before as "the most important announcement at the Expo, probably second to the State of the Nation Address."

And it seems, Creba members listened to the right man and read between the lines correctly, for two hours later, Ms Macapagal announced her decision to join the 2004 Presidential elections.

Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., Creba national president, said, "Whoever wins the presidency becomes our partner in the housing industry."

Rep. Raul M. Gonzalez, vice president for Visayas of Lakas Christian Muslim Democrats, told the INQUIRER during the Creba event that Ms Macapagal was, indeed, announcing she would run.

"We have been having the boom-and-bust situation because every time there's a new leadership, the programs are waylaid along the way. We always start from zero every time there's new administration."

### Open support?

But when GMA decides to run, will Creba openly support her candidacy?

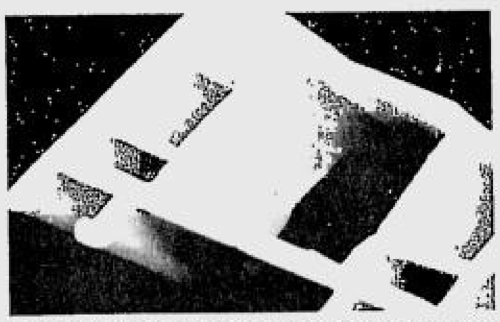
Said Cura: "It will depend on our collegial decision. We have never really speculated on this simply because we took her word for it in December when she said that she had decided not to run. Until we hear this thing being changed, we will have to presume and give her the benefit of the doubt that she has been concentrating on putting things in place."

The Creba, he said, is a business group, and never political.

"We try to stay away from the common stand when it comes to political issues," said Bautista. But I would say the general sentiment on the part of the businessmen is that they hope for continuity," he added.

Demetrio L. Posadas, president of Creba Social Housing Foundation, said he wouldn't be surprised if GMA decides to run. However, he said Creba had always been "apolitical" and had never participated in partisan politics.

**AKATHERM PE pipes for drainage system are all imported from Germany.**



**EUROVEK windows employ hollow structure to add sturdiness and space for metal reinforcement.**

# Next generation material for doors, windows

Text and Photos
by Charles E. Buban

UNPLASTICIZED polyvinyl chloride (uPVC), a versatile and cheap thermoplastic polymer, is fast becoming the world's most widely used polymer in building and construction applications.

UPVC's versatility helps builders meet modern and future design needs and starts to replace traditional materials such as metal and wood.

"Here in the Philippines the use of uPVC is just starting to take off as not all people here know the advantages of using one," said Miguel Manzano, president and CEO of Eurovek Philippines Inc., manufacturer and installer of uPVC systems for windows, doors and shutters from Veka AG Germany.

Worldwide, Veka is the leading system developer and system provider of plastic profiles for doors, windows and shutters and plastic sheets.

### Ideal solution

Said Manzano: "Veka Window and Door Systems offer our customers individual profiles for the fanciest of shapes and country-specific designs. They offer the ideal solution with regard to function, stability and ease of care, long life and environmental protection."

He said Veka is extending a 10-year international warranty for its door and window system.

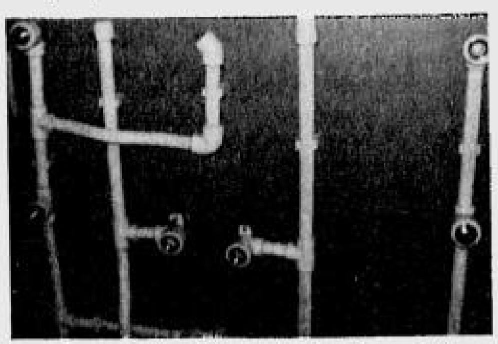
"UPVC material has an extremely long life. It is absolutely weather-resistant and nonageing and represents a genuine investment for generations to come," Manzao said.

Veka window systems feature a high degree of safety. In accordance with the safety regulations for burglar-resistant windows, they can be fitted with corresponding fittings, glazing and lockable handles.

### High-impact strength

Thick-walled multichamber profiles made of high-impact strength hard uPVC withstand massive physical attacks while the sash and window casement are generally fitted with all-around metal reinforcements.

**A UPVC door is highly durable, safe and can be easily manipulated to conform to most design specifications.**



**PLASTHERM can be applied to almost all fitting combinations.**

Veka plastic windows are manufactured from a material of high-impact strength which has proved itself over many years.

Assured Manzano: "Furthermore, Veka window systems are maintenance-friendly and keep their attractive appearance for a long time. They save you the maintenance costs for paint and repainting."

In addition, the nonporous smooth surfaces are easy to clean. Cleaning them with an environment-friendly mild cleaning agent is sufficient, assured Manzano.

He even added that Veka has a varied color selection of the windows that can be matched with any type of house and any façade design. The color films are applied to one side or both sides, making it possible for customers to combine colors in many ways, even differently for external and internal surfaces.

### Pipes for water system

In the later part of the year, EPI introduced Eurovek Plastherm polypropylene random copolymer (PPRC) pipes for hot and cold water system with fusion welding jointing system.

"These are technologically advanced pipes and fittings imported from Germany and we are extending a 50-year warranty for the material," Manzano said.

He said the material used by the system is extremely safe for hot water pipes as it is resistant against heat and chemical substances.

Since the system can be safely used in acidic, alkaline, airy, salty and greasy environments, Plastherm can also be used in chilled water and air-conditioning gas, garden and agriculture use, air pressure tank.

### Other products

Other products EPI is supplying and installing are the Eurovek polyethylene system and Akatherm PE drainage pipes—all imported from Germany.

Eurovek polyethylene system has application in gas and water industry while Akatherm PE drainage pipes have been used in a variety of advanced applications where the pipe system has to meet high standards of durability and reliability.

# Ideal business park for those going global

AIRPORTS are the main physical links to other international business capitals, the main components of the global economy. Thus real property near them benefits highly from their enviable location, says Bobby O. Dy, head of commercial operations of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Dy points out that the McKinley Business Park's accessibility to the new phases of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has been attracting global businesses and enterprising Filipino firms seeking to expand their operations within the region.

### Initial project

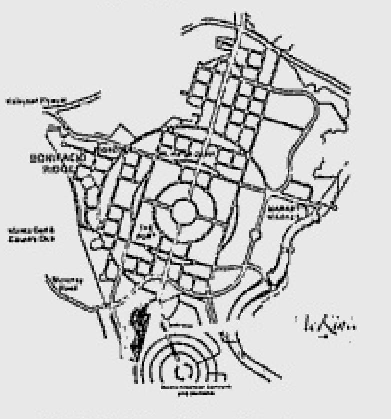
McKinley Business Park is within that portion of Fort Bonifacio recently acquired by Ayala Land and the Campos Group. It was selected as the initial project of the joint venture because of its highly advantageous location.

Situated very close to McKinley Road, the McKinley Business Park offers a limited number of lots that range from 941 square meters to 2,782 sq. m. Within the Bonifacio Global City business district, it is only a few minutes drive from both the Naia 3 Terminal and the country's largest business hub, the Makati Business District.

Given its proximity to the Manila American Monument and Memorial, McKinley Business Park has been zoned as a medium-density development. "It is ideal for medium-rise office, residential and mixed-use buildings," Dy points out.

### Strong demand

Tristan dela Rosa, senior vice-president of Ayala Land Inc. which is marketing the project, is optimistic about the prospects of McKinley Business Park. He observes that as the Philippine economy continues to be intrinsically linked to the global and regional economy, there will be a strong demand for residential, commercial and office properties that will cater to the needs of executives engaged in international business. "Such a location will allow this type of executive to be fully productive," he states.



**MCKINLEY Business Park**

The McKinley Business Park is the initial project of the FBDC under the management of Ayala Land and the Campos Group. In partnership, the two firms acquired from Metro Pacific Corp. the controlling share of the FBDC in a public building in late 2002. As such, the project is expected to fully benefit from the experience of Ayala Land, developer of the Makati Business District, and the Campos Group, which has commercial, residential and office projects in a number of Metro Manila locations catering to a broad market segment.

Backed up by the extensive track record of both companies in the reliable delivery of products to its clients, McKinley Business Park is scheduled to be fully completed by the fourth quarter of 2004. However, construction by lot buyers can begin earlier. According to dela Rosa, pieces of property at the development represent a prudent investment in the future. "The area is at the crossroads of current and future developments," he states.

# The responsible builder preserves environment during development

By Alexis A. Acacio

**BUILDING DREAMS**

WITH THE UNENDING concern for protecting the environment, green building of homes and other infrastructure projects is now a part of design and construction work. By definition, green building is the construction of infrastructure in a way that conserves resources. It involves a total concern for the environment and the materials and method that are used in the construction of infrastructure.

Green building has many aspects and involves:

- **Preservation of the natural environment**

Generations will come and go but nature will always be there to stay. In planning communities and living areas, the natural environment should be well preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Man will always go back to nature. It starts with the proper mindset and plan to preserve the environment in planning and building. It is a fact of life that there are many irresponsible builders out there that do not care at all about the natural environment but it is the duty and obligation of the responsible builder to preserve the environment during development. This involves protecting the natural landscape, trees, vegetation and even the wildlife that is living in the area.

Preserving the environment is also concerned with preserving the lifestyle of the previous occupants of a certain area. Care should be done to ensure that the disturbance of the new infrastructure to the previous inhabitants should be minimal.

- **Reduction of disturbance of the land**

Some areas need a lot of rework before these can ever become buildable and livable communities. This would require extensive earthmoving and earth filling. In green building, the disturbance of land is kept to a minimum.

This means that if certain areas within the property boundaries require extensive cutting and disturbance, they are just kept as they are.

This requires a lot of sacrifice on the side of the investor since these areas, when not converted into saleable land are economically useless for the developer.

However, there are certain possibilities for these areas. These can become open spaces and can be converted into a place where the residents can converge or a natural playground for the children. Open spaces in some subdivision developments are conceptualized in this way.

- **Protection of vegetation and trees**

In a subdivision development that sometimes involves several hundreds of hectares, it is the vegetation and trees that have to be protected. I have seen mango orchards with fruit-bearing trees or even big centuries-old trees that have been preserved. This was made possible by placing the roadways in such a way that the trees need not be cut.

These subdivisions offer a lot of greenery and shade to its residents and in turn are a very attractive investment to people who put a premium in vegetation.

The responsible developer makes sure that vegetation and trees are properly protected and preserved.

- **Reduction of erosion**

Erosion is common if natural ground is unnecessarily exposed during land development. Once heavy rainfall occurs, slopes are eroded and sediments are washed away into lower lands. These sediments can destroy the natural landscape and can clog drainage systems and cause flooding.

The responsible builder makes sure that the site development reduces substantially the occurrence of erosion within the project site. Erosion protection is a direct requirement for the prevention of landslides and flooding. Erosion control structures are sometimes necessary in order to protect the natural environment.

- **Conservation of water**

Water is becoming a scarce resource every day and water conservation is a top priority in any land development project. This conservation consciousness involves a balance in the availability and usage of water in the system.

Water conservation also involves the proper planning of the water system of the house being built. This includes the use of water conserving bathroom and kitchen fixtures, gardening systems, washing machines and even swimming pools.

- **Efficient use of energy**

Energy efficiency involves the proper use of cooling and even heating systems in the home. This involves the efficient use of airconditioners, appliances and lighting.

The proper layout of energy-consuming utilities is necessary. The correct orientation of homes with the sunlight plays a very important role. The ceiling heights and the sizes of rooms are also important in planning the energy-efficient home.

- **Use of recyclable materials**

To prevent the gradual depletion of the earth's resources, recyclable materials are used in most homes and infrastructures.

The amount of resources and energy used to create the material or even the home is also assessed and considered.

- **Reduction of waste during construction**

During construction, waste reduction is always encouraged. This not only saves a lot of money for the builder but also contributes to the protection of the scarce natural resources.

AN EFFORT OF ALL. The task and responsibility of building green involves the commitment of three entities:

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—The designer
—The builder

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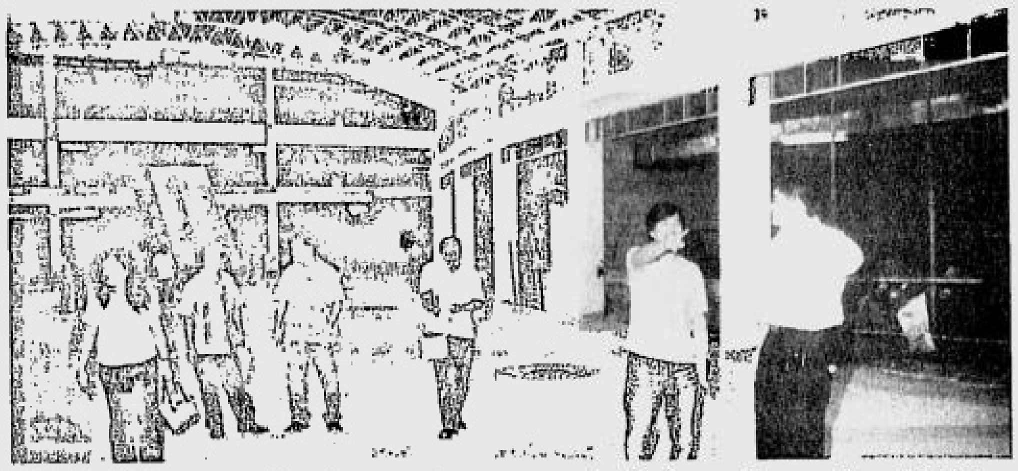
*(For comments and advice you may reach Alexis A. Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)*



EARLY tenants appreciate the expansive open space inside the one-hecates Greenfield Edsa Central Mall.

# What to expect at Greenfield Edsa Central Mall

THE EMERGENCE of Greenfield's Edsa Central Mall in Mandaluyong as the new shopping center of Metro Manila's shopping capital has assembled together the country's foremost manufacturers and retailers to serve the needs of the growing clientele.

Every day, more than 200,000 people pass through the eight-hectare Edsa Central complex where the mall is located to get their rides and do last-minute shopping.

## Convenience, quality

"Our mall, which is slated to open by year-end, offers convenience and quality through our improved structure and facilities as well as accessibility via the direct link to the Shaw Boulevard MRT station mall and public transportation terminals around the complex," said Duane Santos, vice president of Greenfield Development Corp., the property development firm that owns and manages the complex.

To comprise the New Edsa Central Mall are new tenants such as Nike, the leading sports brand in the country; Otto Shoes, one of the most popular Filipino-made brands; Lee USA, a popular apparel brand; Work Station, a convenience and one-stop hardware store youth fashion; Dickies, the latest trend in youth fashion; Blues Brothers, Wrangler, Leaveland; fast-food stores like Jollibee, KFC, Chowking and Pizza Hut.

## Great advantage

Manolo P. Samson, shoe magnate from Marikina and top honcho of the famed Otto brand, and James C. Lim, managing director of the Limson Marketing Inc. that owns and operates the mall-based Work Station, said: "Of the current mall developments in Mandaluyong, we see a great advantage in Edsa Central Mall owing to its location, huge customer base and a good name and integrity of Greenfield."

Being at the forefront of masterplanning the community, GDC started its 24-hectare property in Mandaluyong City with the construction of the Edsa Central complex.

As the mall is nearing completion, more than 80 percent of the stalls available for lease have been signed up for occupancy and operation.

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# Shopper's Gold tops off in Manila

AT THE HEART of Manila's former financial district rises a new world-class shopping and entertainment center called Shopper's Gold-Avenida.

Conveniently located within a few steps from the Carriedo LRT station on Rizal Avenue, this new development is right in the middle of Mayor Lito Atienza's "Buhayin ang Maynila" redevelopment which is expected to breathe new life on downtown Manila. It was formally opened recently with the property owners leading the topping-off ceremonies.

## Unique concept

Rubicon Marketing Corp., the exclusive marketing arm of Shopper's Gold-Avenida, has come up with a unique marketing concept. Unlike in other malls where units are available only on a leasehold basis, Rubicon is now offering store owners a chance to own the stalls for good!

Says Rubicon Marketing president Jose Reyes: "We're offering a unique concept in that store owners who have been renting stalls in other malls can actually buy the units for themselves. They can, in turn, rent these out to other parties or operate it themselves." He exclaims, "So in effect, they get a chance to earn more money in a solid investment either way!"

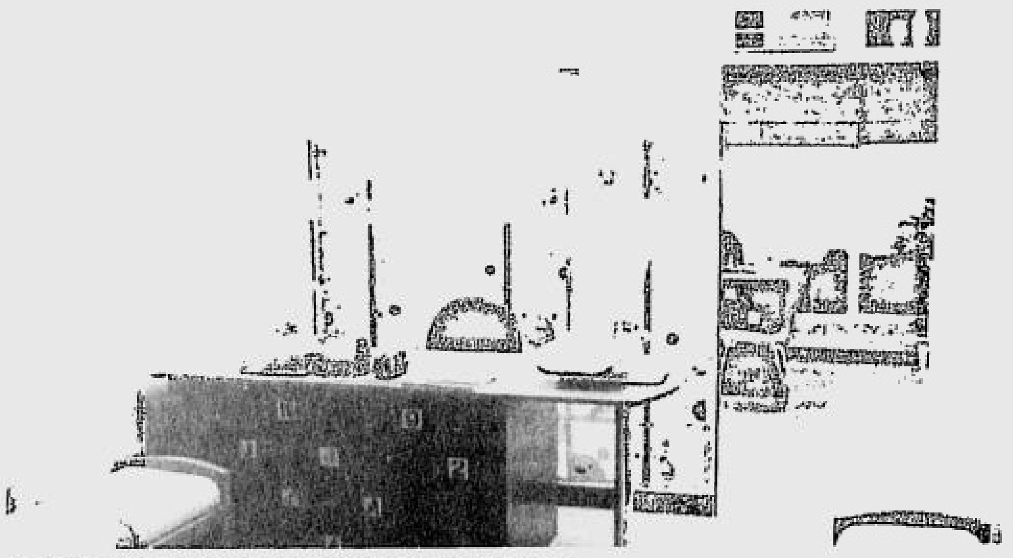
## Shopping haven

Shopper's Gold-Avenida is expected to meet the changing needs of consumers and retailers alike by combining a shopping haven with condominium-type residential units in the topmost floors. The first three floors, on the other hand, will offer safe and convenient shopping and dining experience for regular consumers and bargain hunters alike.

Shoppers Gold-Avenida is located at the redeveloped Avenida area. Rizal Avenue will be a day-to-night concept that promises well-rounded shopping and lifestyle experiences, thereby assuring continued customer traffic 24-hours a day.

By day, Avenida—from Carriedo to Recto—will provide for an open-air streetscape and park-like environment. Its sidewalk will also be ideal for street partying and outdoor fun events.

By night, it shall provide a perfect setting for alfresco wining and dining as well as other entertainment activities.



**MODEL UNITS AT FESTIVAL SUPERMALL**
Filinvest Alabang Inc. recently opened the model units of 2301 Civic Place at the third level of Festival Supermall in Alabang. Fitted with complete appliances and furnishings, 2301 Civic Place features compact office studios with the comforts of home. It is a 12-story home and office development soon to rise on Filinvest Corporate City's Civic Drive. It is ideal for entrepreneurs and doctors alike, who will surely benefit from locating in a prime area minutes away from the most exciting developments in the south.

# *Governor's Hills holds open house on Oct. 18*

LEADING affordable housing developer Empire East Properties Inc. is holding an open house on Saturday for its Governor's Hills township project in General Trias, Cavite.

The open house will showcase the homes of Governor's Hills—single-detached and duplex units of Phases 1, 2 and 3. Special discounts and easy payment terms will be offered to prospective buyers of these units on the day itself. Triplex units from the other phases will also be open for viewing.

## Designs

The single-detached and duplex units are available in six Mexican-Californian designs. The single-detached units can accommodate up to three bedrooms, while the duplex units can fit up to four bedrooms. Both come with provisions for a garden, attic and carport. The elegant European-inspired triplex homes feature up to three bedrooms, a carport, a garden and an outdoor patio, With floor areas ranging from 33 to 120 square meters, they are available for as low as P7,800 a month.

Excellent facilities for the family and the whole community include a village clubhouse, basketball court, swimming pool, children's playground and a topnotch science school. A strategically located 16-hectare commercial complex boasts a mall-type central area for specialty shops and boutiques and a commercial strip lined with banks, offices, gasoline stations, fast-food outlets and other services.

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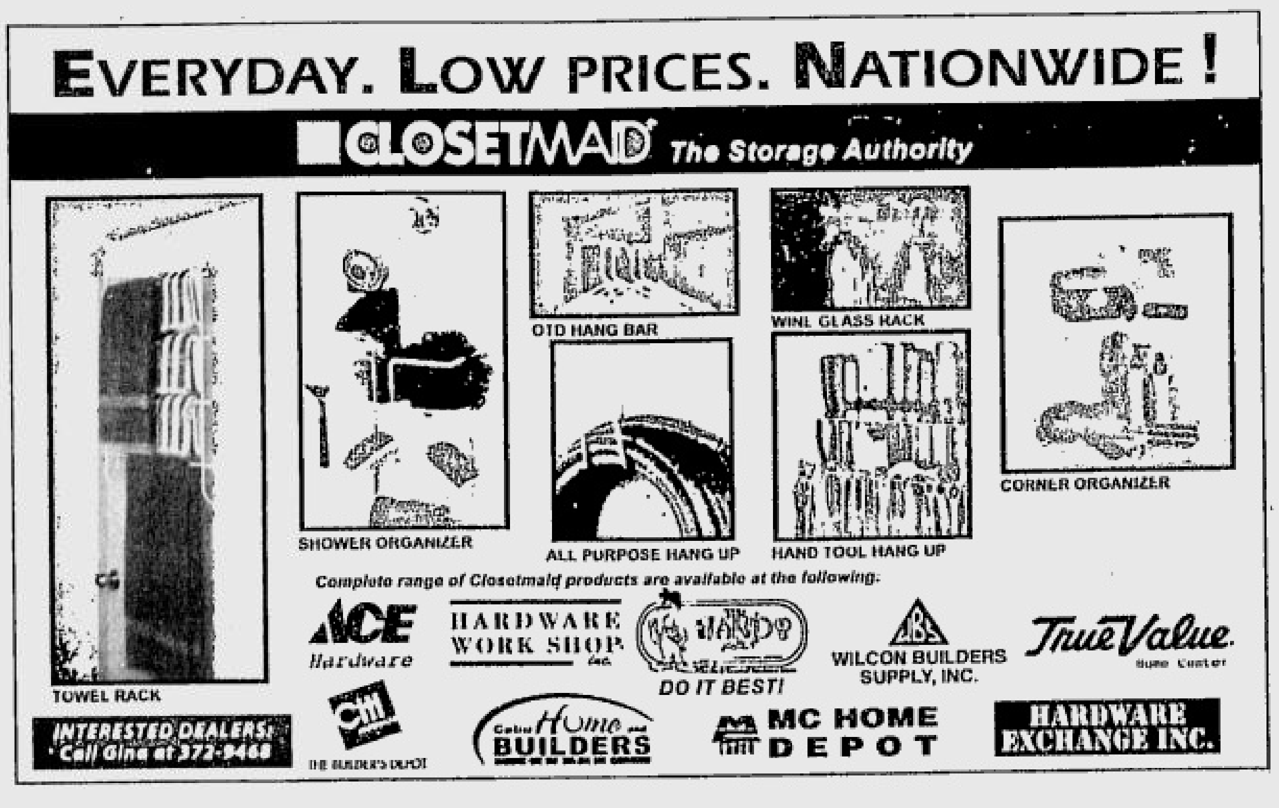
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## IMI sets $50M for acquisitions

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

INTEGRATED Microelectronics Inc., the semiconductor arm of the Ayala group of companies, has set aside as much as $50 million for the acquisition of chip makers in Asia and Europe to further expand its business.

IMI president Arthur Tan told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of an industry briefing by the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) that IMI was already in exploratory talks with a number of semiconductor companies.

"Next year, we have plans of expanding both our ODM (original design manufacturing) and EMS (electronics manufacturing service), and one way we can do this is by buying existing companies," Tan explained.

IMI is a one-stop electronics manufacturing service company offering services such as product development, prototyping, plastic injection, metal stamping, electronics assembly operations and supply chain management.

Tan said IMI was in various stages of negotiations with the prospective companies, one of which is about two-thirds the size of IMI and another the size of Eazix.

Eazix is a joint venture between IMI and SIIX Corp. of Japan. It was put up in 1998 and offers higher value-added services such as design and engineering services, prototyping and product development.

# Highway robbers unnerve semiconductors industry

A WAVE of highway robberies has unnerved the Philippines' strategic electronics sector as it struggles to recover from the 2001 global information technology (IT) sector slump, industry officials said Monday.

Unknown gunmen have been "hijacking" trucks that bring electronics products to ports or airports for shipment abroad, said Ernie Santiago, executive director of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc.

Seipi companies accounted for 69 percent of Philippine merchandise exports last year. Export receipts for the seven months to July are down by 4.9 percent from a year earlier to 13.2 billion dollars due to a patchy recovery in global demand.

The industry, however, has remained optimistic that it would increase its exports by at least 5 percent this year as the world economy slowly recovers from the adverse effects of the SARS outbreak and the US-Iraq war.

Seipi said the industry was showing signs of growth in recent months, particularly in the wireless and mobile computer segments.

The local semiconductor industry shipped $24.26 billion worth of products in 2002, an 11 percent increase over 2001 levels but still below the 2000 peak of $27.17 billion.

Santiago said the global economic recovery should accelerate next year, when the Philippines is projecting its electronics exports to rise 20 percent to $30.56 billion. *AFP, Michelle V. Remo*

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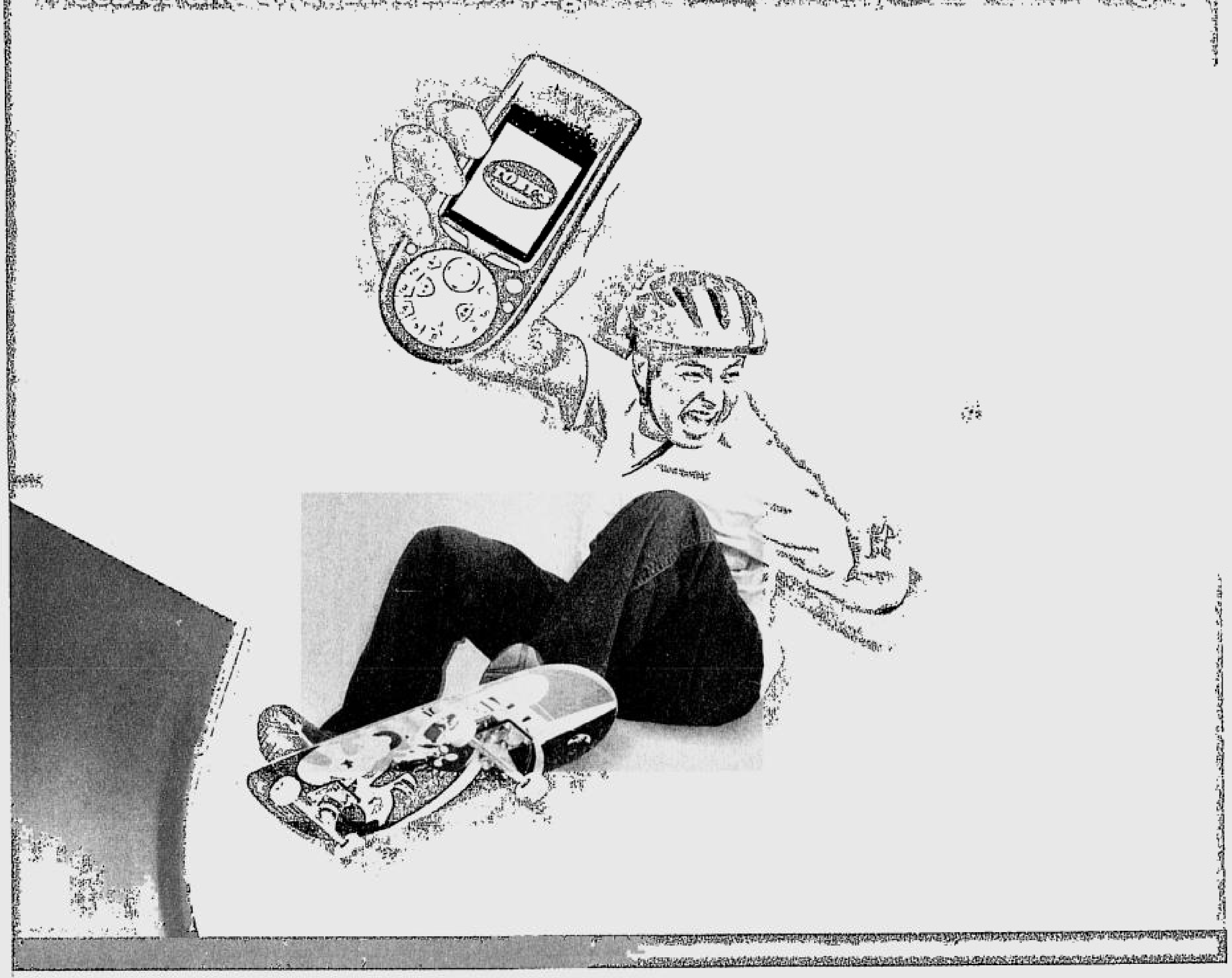

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## Convergys eyes more contact centers in RP

**By Michelle V. Remo**

CONVERGYS, the world's largest provider of integrated billing, employee and customer care services, has put up two call centers in the Philippines as part of its plan to further expand its reach in the region.

Located in Makati and Pasig cities, the contact centers required an investment of about $7 million to $10 million each. This went to the construction of the call center facilities, language laboratories and extensive training expenses.

Convergys president John Frecker said the excellent quality of the labor force in the Philippines, particularly the Filipinos' English communication skills, was one of the major reasons behind Convergys' decision to invest in the country.

Frecker stressed that the Makati and Pasig contact centers were just the first of a number of contact centers that Convergys planned to put up in the Philippines.

Convergys has already started the construction of another contact center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

"As we continue our success in Manila, it's natural for us to continue to look for new opportunities. Opening additional locations depends on the needs of our clients," said Frecker.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said Convergys' expansion in the Philippines was an indication the country was still a good investment site for a number of multinational companies despite negative news about its economic and political climate.

## SEC mulls over tighter audit regulations

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is mulling over a proposed rule prohibiting auditors of listed companies from providing other services to ensure their independence.

"We feel the auditors should not have conflicting services," SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat said in a press briefing last week.

Manabat said, however, that the auditing firms have objected to the proposed rule that would prevent auditors of listed companies from accepting consultancy work for the same company.

The independence of accounting firms doing both auditing and consultancy work was questioned following the Enron and Worldcom scandals that shook corporate America and brought down one of the oldest and largest auditing firms in the US.

There were charges that Enron's accountant Arthur Andersen became lax in its audit of the company's books because it was earning so much from consultancy services.

The SEC wanted to prevent an Enron-like scandal in the Philippines, thus, it came up with proposed rules on the accreditation of auditing firms.

These rules are currently limited to auditors of listed companies, but it plans to expand the rules to cover financing companies, investment houses and pre-need firms.

"We will also study whether new rules are needed to bring existing ones in line with emerging international best practices, including the latest principles of Auditor Oversight and Auditor Independence as stated by Iosco (International Securities Regulators Commission)," the SEC said in its list of priorities for 2003.

The SEC also said that it would establish a disciplinary body that would establish standards, oversee the profession and impose penalties to encourage quality work and ethics.

This body would be established in coordination with the Board of Accountancy, Philippine Institute for Certified Public Accountants and Professional Regulatory Commission.

LIFESTYLE Fitness
For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

**BEULAH Lozada-Arciga,**
**breast cancer survivor**

...there is no tomorrow."

# Top lensmen capture images of hope and courage

## Breast cancer is no longer a death sentence

**Text by Anne A. Jambora**
**Photos by Romy Homillada**

WHEN Beulah Lozada-Arciga was diagnosed with breast cancer in her late 40s, she asked God for one favor. She prayed that her lease on life be extended for 20 more years. Her adopted daughter was only two years old then, and she wanted to be sure the little girl would be able to stand on her own before she passed on.

Ten years later she was rushed to the intensive care unit (ICU) for an aneurysm (a balloon-like swelling in the artery). She was admitted at 11 a.m.; if she did not wake up by 8 p.m., doctors told her family, all was lost.

While comatose, Lozada-Arciga had a vision of her deceased mother and sister, and a legion of angels, carrying her up toward the clouds.

She was devastated. She cried and moaned and wailed—she couldn't die. At

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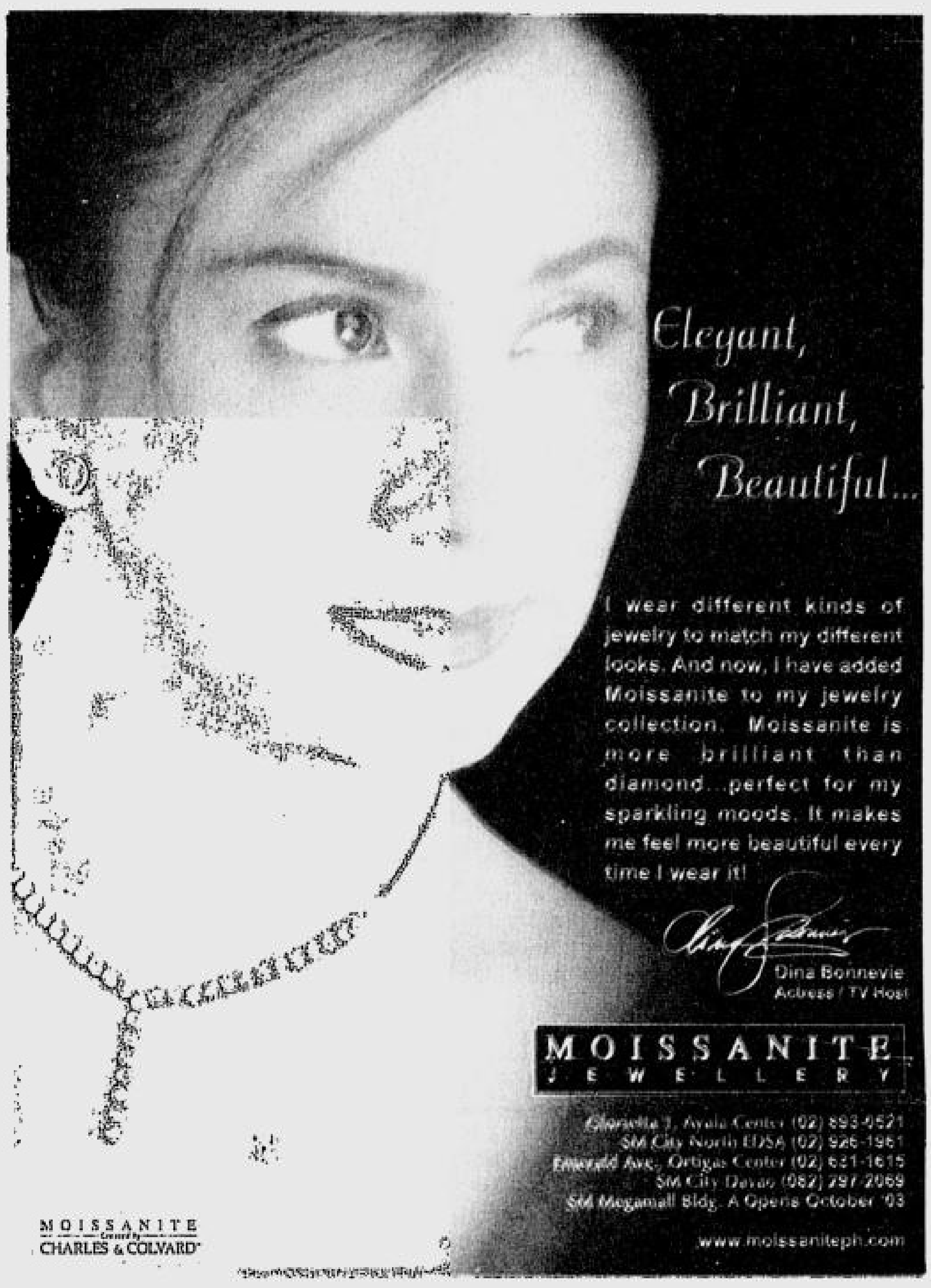

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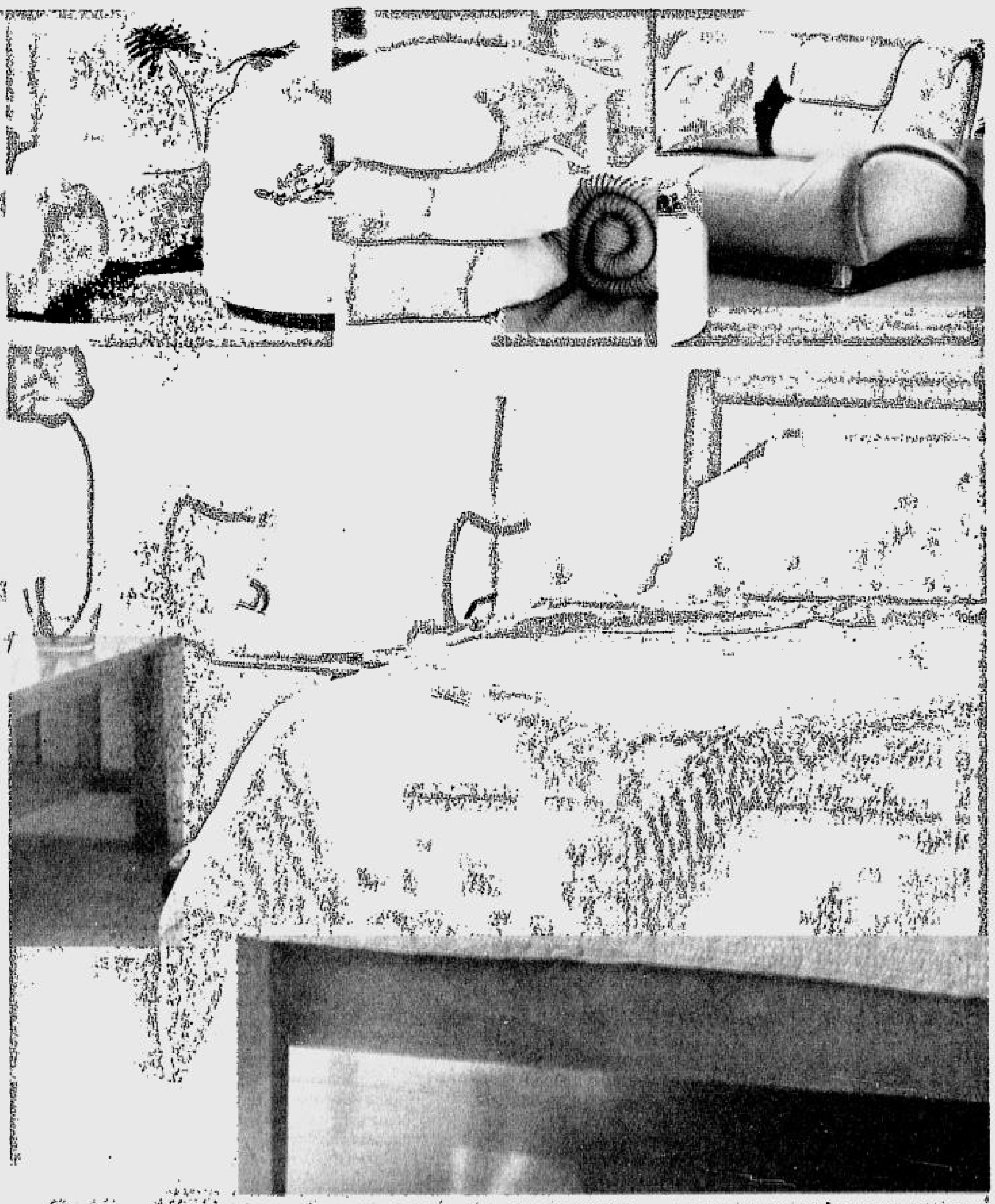

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# Top lensmen capture images of hope and courage

From page C1

least, not yet. She pleaded with God for a second time: "It can't be my time. We had a deal, remember?" She woke up on the hospital bed at exactly 8 p.m.

It was 15 years ago when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her daughter, now 17, is an AMA sophomore Information Technology student. "I'm still here. I'm still alive!" She is hopeful God will grant her the favor she asked almost two decades ago.

## Winners all

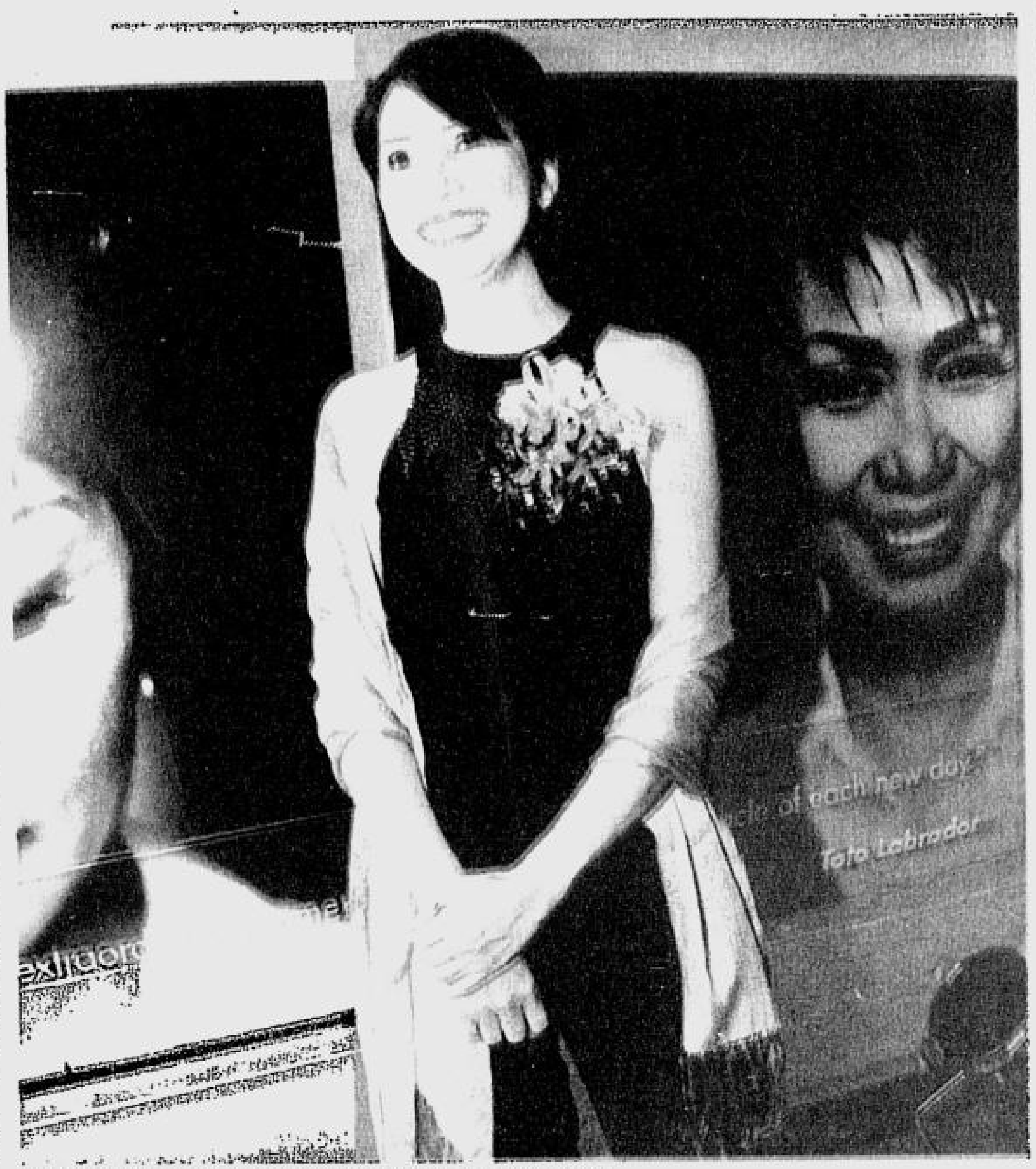
Lozada-Arciga's story is just one of the many moving and inspiring stories behind the images in Avon Phils.' photo exhibit, "Winning the Fight Against Breast Cancer," at the 4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, which ends tomorrow.

The exhibit features 15 photographs of strength and triumph that are both poignant and moving, but never upsetting. The exhibit's subjects are all survivors, each bearing messages of hope, of the power of faith over reason and love over anger.

Perhaps 30-year-old Crisann Celdran, who discovered she had breast cancer four months after her wedding five years ago, says it best: "Be strong. You have strength in you that you didn't think you have. If you think you don't have the strength, there are people around you who will give you support."

Grade school teacher Myrna Dequina weeps even now. She never thought she'd become an example of courage, nor did she dream she'd witness her youngest daughter, who was only a fourth grader in 1989 when Dequina learned she had cancer, become a professional.

Now 23, daughter Donna says "[My mother] is very strong. *Kahit na maitim na yung kuko nya, payat na payat at nakakalbo na, pumapasok pa rin s'ya sa* school to teach her pupils."



PEARL Imperial: "*Na*-imagine *ko ang itsura ko na makakalbo.*"

Pearl Imperial was shattered when her doctor told her in 1998 she had Stage 2 breast cancer. Her sister lived in the United States. Imperial was living her 86-year-old mother, to whom she had to break the news. "How would I tell my mom? How would she take it?"

She took her mom to dinner, thinking it might be their last, and talked about undergoing an executive checkup for one week. Although still sharp at her age, her mother took a while before accepting her story.

The night before surgery, Imperial said she surrendered everything to God, including her fears and uncertainties. When she woke up after the surgery, she felt no pain that for a while she thought the operation was scrapped.

Her only worries? "I had to spend a lot of money here, *papangit pa ako. Na*-imagine *ko ang itsura ko na makakalbo.*"

## Reality

The other featured women include Lorna Roque, Dorothy Chavez, Yolanda Licudan, Nelly Jamelo, Virginia Santos, Josie Chua, Cindy Albert, Nepomucena Oreña, Editha Cuarentas, Elvira Se and Dolores Romulo. The survivors had been endorsed to Avon Phils. by different support groups.

Avon received 15 nominations, although it initially wanted only eight, thinking some would not want public exposure.

"But when we told them about the program, about inspiring other women, they all went for it! So we had to look for 15 photographers," says Avon Phils.' senior PR manager Louie C. Migne.

The photographers—the likes of Raymund Isaac, Wig Tysmans, Patrick Uy, Toto Labrador, Denise Weldon, Xander Angeles—are some of today's top lensmen in the country.

Migne says the photographers chose their subjects. "We made them (subject and photographer) meet and bond."

The exhibit marks the second year of Avon Phils.' efforts to raise breast cancer awareness. Migne says the first year was about a promise. They raised funds through the sale of special lipsticks to build a breast care center at the Philippine General Hospital. (Purchase of any Avon lipstick for the month of October will also go toward the support of the center.)

This time, she says, the campaign is about the realities of breast cancer. "We want to tell women that with early detection, they can be be winners. Breast cancer is no longer a death sentence. [An exhibit of this kind] has never been done before. We are trying to catch women's attention, and what better way than through a powerful medium like a photograph?"

Reaching out to women. That's what Avon does best. In fact, on Oct. 26, Avon will sponsor a 3-km fun run billed "Me and My Mom against Breast Cancer" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*

SURVIVORS all

# *Lack of awareness makes Pinays vulnerable to breast cancer*

THE PHILIPPINES has one of the highest incidence of breast cancer in the world. This is not because Filipino women have unhealthy lifestyles or are genetically predisposed to the disease. The reason is simple: lack of awareness.

Dr. Wyda D. Beriña, program coordinator of the Women's Cancer Program of the Department of Health-National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, pointed out that Filipinos would visit health-care facilities only when they were already sick. They rarely saw health professionals for preventive health care, she said during the recent breast cancer open forum, "Think Pink," organized by Woman Today.

A 1997 screening campaign conducted by the DOH and Philippine Cancer Program with the World Health Organization showed that only 20 percent of the 79.1 percent suspected to have breast cancer returned for orientation and possible treatment. "The reasons for noncompliance were fear, lack of money for treatment and other medical expenses, indifference and lack of time," Beriña said.

An earlier study, according to her, revealed that economic factors, fear of being diagnosed with, and non-awareness of the gravity of, breast cancer were reasons for late diagnosis among Flipinas. Only 36 percent of the women who were screened knew the importance of breast self-examination (BSE) while 54 percent never did BSE.

Mammography, said to detect signs of breast cancer three years before lumps could be felt by the fingers, must go hand-in-hand with BSE and a clinical breast checkup performed by a physician knowledgeable in performing the examination. Radiologist Angela Crisostomo pointed out that not all screenings could detect all cancers, and they didn't detect all cancers early enough.

A study of 100 women with breast cancer showed 80 were detected through mammography and 20 by physical exam, Dr. Crisostomo added. "For a screening program to be successful, cancer must be found at a smaller size and at an early stage," she said.

Breast surgeon Diana Cua, one of the guest speakers, said although about 80 percent of lumps in the breast were not cancerous, Filipinas should not take any chances. "When you feel a lump you should always be concerned," she stressed.

Although cancer could recur in the same breast or move to the other breast, Dr. Cua said, in general, patients should not worry about local recurrence. "They should be worried if the cancer spreads to the brain, bones, lungs and liver," she said. Yearly mammogram is still advised even after chemotherapy or cancer treatment.

Possible symptoms include change in breast size or shape; lump, swelling or thickening in the breast or underarm area (not necessarily painful); flattening or indention on skin; redness or scaling; unusual dimples; nipple discharge either clear, dark or bloody; burning, itching or scaling of nipples; pain or tenderness in the breast or underarm areas.

Practically anyone can have breast cancer, but some may be more at risk than others because of: family history of breast cancer, age, previous breast cancer, previous noncancerous breast disease, early menstruation or before 9, menopause after 55, pregnancy after 30, never becoming pregnant, prolonged use of oral contraceptives or hormone replacement therapy (meant to ease the discomfort and inconvenience of menopause), obesity after menopause, diet high in fat, sedentary lifestyle, breast implants, etc.

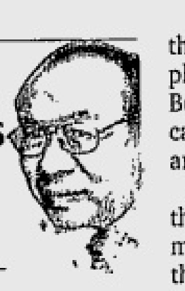
In the early stages of breast cancer women will hardly feel anything. But chances of recovery can be 100 percent if the disease is treated early.

*Anne A. Jambora*

RADIOLOGIST Dr. Angela Crisostomo

BREAST surgeon Dr. Diana Cua PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

# We create our own reality



**INNER AWARENESS**

*Jaime T. Licauco*

YES, we create our own reality. This is one of the most fundamental tenets of the ancient oriental religions, such as Buddhism. And during the last century, modern particle physics or quantum mechanics has discovered exactly the same thing.

Quantum physicists are proving that in the smallest particle of matter, i.e. on the quantum level, the venerable and time-tested laws of Newtonian physics no longer apply.

What governs behavior of matter at that smallest level is thought or consciousness. This was a shocking discovery by quantum physicists, and it took them a long time to accept it. The British physicist Sir Stanley Eddington said that the "ultimate stuff of the universe is mind stuff."

It is on the quantum level that the statement, "this world is an optical illusion," becomes a palpable and inevitable reality. What you think becomes reality; cause does not have to precede the effect. The two can occur at the same time.

Also on the quantum level, there are no certainties, only probabilities.

This brings us to the question of visualization which can be defined as "the process of forming a mental image."

According to well-known brain scientist Dr. Karl Pribram of Stanford University, the image that we form in our minds is three-dimensional; it is a hologram. And it is duplicated in every cell of our brain.

Memory does not reside in any specific part of the brain but, just like the hologram, is contained in every part of the brain. This is essentially what has been known as the Holographic Theory of the brain proposed by Dr. Pribram.

## Getting our goals

To get any goal we want, we have to visualize it first very clearly and strongly in our minds, using all our physical senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste.

If we can describe our goal in its minutest detail, including the emotions we will feel once we have attained the goal, then we will get it without fail. Of course, this presumes that our goal should not harm other people or intrude on their rights. That will bring about bad karma.

Before anything appears on the physical universe, it must first appear on the mental and spiritual planes. This is true for everything we see in the physical world of reality.

For example, before a table or chair becomes a table or chair, it must first exist in the mind of the carpenter. Before a Mona Lisa exists on canvas, she must first exist in the mind of Leonardo da Vinci. And before the sun, moon and stars appear in the sky, they must first appear in the mind of God.

That's why the mental and spiritual planes are sometimes called the causal plane, whereas the physical plane is called the plane of effects or manifestation. Before a person gets sick physically, he is already sick mentally and spiritually.

If we want to acquire something on the physical plane, we must first learn how to access it through our minds. Once this goal is clearly focused on our mind, it becomes just a simple matter to have the goal appear in real life. We become co-creators with God.

## Powerful tool

What we visualize in our mind, our body accepts as real without question.

For example, try imagining or visualizing a *kalamansi* fruit. Cut it in half. Get hold of one half and start squeezing the sour juice into your open mouth. Imagine the liquid touching your tongue and you taste the sour *kalamansi* juice. Immediately your mouth salivates, as though a real *kalamansi* fruit was squeezed into your mouth. It did not matter to your body that everything was unreal or merely imagined. It reacted realistically.

Suppose it was not a *kalamansi* but a tumor you keep on imagining you might have. If you keep on doing this regularly over a period of time, you will soon develop a real tumor.

There is a saying, "What you can conceive in your mind, you can achieve."

If we think positively, we attract positive forces or positive energy to us. If we are negative, we attract negative forces. That is why it is good to recite positive statements or affirmations on a daily basis, so we can protect ourselves and attract only positive vibes and entities.

A simple affirmation suggested by an 18th-century French healer, Emile Coue, is: "Every day, in every way, I'm getting better and better." It works wonders. This was before the advent of hypnosis or modern psychology.

## Healing and the mind

The crucial role that our mind plays in our healing is often underestimated, if not ignored by western medical science.

This is now slowly changing. There are more and more doctors who are beginning to realize its true potentials for either prevention or the cure of illness.

Studies have shown that a positive mental attitude, visualization, prayers and even laughter can help tremendously in changing the course of an illness. The intimate connections between emotions, the nervous system and the immune system are now being proven in laboratory studies. They are no longer considered plain quackery as before.

Medical science is now seeing the value of looking at man as a whole, i.e. body, mind and spirit, rather than breaking him apart and studying only the body.

Thus, complementary, holistic or integrative modalities of healing will be the trend of the future.

*Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8pm.*

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# Helping the elderly care for themselves

**By Gino Dormiendo**
*Contributor*

LIKE the average practicing doctors we know, he has a long line of patients to attend to each working day. But unlike most general practitioners, he offers medical services mainly to the elderly, mostly those aged 60 and above, helping add more quality time to their twilight years.

The synergetic doctor-patient relationship has worked exceedingly well in the past five years of his practice.

Dr. Gary S. Sy, a specialist in the care of the elderly, is a diplomate in geriatrics and gerontology as well as sports and preventive family medicine. He is also a staunch advocate of diet nutritional therapy.

Having experienced the relatively limited scope and highly impersonal mode of treatment from his own physician while undergoing treatment after a vehicular accident in August 1997, Sy vowed, when fully recovered, to establish a clinic that would prioritize the medical needs and health education of the patient.

## Hub of seniors

The Life Extension Medical Center (LEMC), which marks its fifth anniversary this month, has become the hub of the senior folk, belonging mostly to middle- and low-income sectors of Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Located in the busy section of Gen. Luna St. in the Paco district, the LEMC has built a fairly large and loyal following by offering free and intensive consultation on how the elderly can actively take care of their own lives.

Sy advocates lifestyle modification as the best way the elderly or, for that matter, all the patients seeking his healing touch, can attain an active and healthy life.

Gently admonishing his patients on the dangers from smoking, alcoholic drinks and a sedentary lifestyle, he airs his advice through various radio programs over dzME, dzRH and dwAN as well as through regular medical columns.

"The most common problem among older patients is depression," Sy admits, "and this is most often aggravated by the feeling of neglect by their families who barely have time to attend to their needs. Also common in this group are hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and stroke. The majority also experience sleep disorders, asthma and emphysema resulting from smoking."

Sy sees it as part of his duty to explain to patients that they have the power to achieve better health if they can get rid of these vices.

"If they really want to be treated, they must first discipline themselves. That is why I don't accept patients who aren't serious about kicking the smoking habit."

To dramatize his point, he keeps a basket in his clinic containing all the cigarettes his patients surrendered before consulting him. It is also solid proof of their resolve.

DR. Sy and his flock: Proactive treatment to add quality to twilight years

LOYAL followers are empowered to take care of their own lives.

## Holistic

A graduate of Fatima College in 1992, where he received a scholarship for medical clerkship at Brooklyn Hospital Center in New York City, Sy subscribes to a holistic approach to health promotion. Thus, he always emphasizes a multi-faceted approach to treatment that involves healing the body, mind and spirit.

He says his highly personal touch in reeducating and ultimately healing the person—a rarity in the medical profession today—is what endears him to his patients.

A recipient of countless awards and distinctions for his contributions to the practice of geriatrics and gerontology, including the Philippine United Senior Citizens' Humanitarian Award and the Parangal ng Bayan Award in Medicine and Allied Sciences, among others, Sy will be launching his book, "Gabay sa Kalusugan" soon.

Written in conversational Filipino, Sy's book will serve as an excellent guide on how to grow old gracefully—and healthfully, of course. In the book and a subsequent English version, Sy will give a user-friendly, highly practical health guide written especially for the Filipino.

The physician envisions building a home for people who need a place and a community where they can have the companionship and the security they need for their remaining years.

Given the doctor's enviable track record in alleviating the plight of the country's elderly, the dream may soon become a reality.

HAPPY faces, happy healer: Dr. Sy with a couple of his patients at LEMC

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PFIZER Consumer Healthcare associate director for sales Joel de la Cruz, Market Leaders Inc.'s Miguel Pizarro, Pfizer Philippines regional director Cooey La O', DJ Bluesabelle, Pfizer national sales manager for food channel Rommel Turingan, Audrey Tan and Market Leaders' Ford Monfierro

# *Three events launch breakthrough product*

PFIZER Consumer Healthcare recently unveiled its latest innovation in oral health care via a three-event-in-one-day celebration that culminated in a VIP party at Restaurant 12 in Greenbelt 2, Makati City.

Marking the formal launch of New Cool Mint Listerine Pocket-Paks, the first oral care strip that kills 99.9 percent of mouth germs, was an exclusive media gathering held earlier that day at the Temple Bar and Restaurant hosted by newscaster and TV magazine talk show host Ces Orena-Drilon.

A cool and frenetic consumer party at Absinth Bar in Greenbelt 3 in Makati City followed in the evening, graced by celebrities and some of the country's top performers and ramp models who wanted to experience the "germ-free clean mouth feeling" of the new Coolmint Listerine Pocketpaks.

Guests were treated to an audio-visual spectacle and laser lights show highlighting the unique features of Listerine Pocketpaks. Listerine "Germinators," clad in glittering silver and sea green costumes, also roamed around Greenbelt Park, giving away product samples.

At the very exclusive VIP party called "Le Chic Un-masque" that followed later that night, young professionals, executives and celebrities were treated to special cocktails and martinis as they partied to the nova lounge music of DJ Bluesabelle, who was flown in from Australia for the exclusive launch celebration.

On both occasions, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare group, led by its regional director for the Philippines and Greater China Cooey La O', marketing director Jojo Conti and senior product manager Gretchen Borja, came in full force to welcome guests.

Other Pfizer executives present were Joel de la Cruz, associate director for sales; Rommel Turingan, national sales manager for food channel; Pfizer corporate affairs manager Kimmy Coseteng; and Miguel Pizarro and Ford Monfierro of Market Leaders Inc.

PFIZER executives and friends with TV talk show host TJ Manotoc

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# For health's sake, eat well!

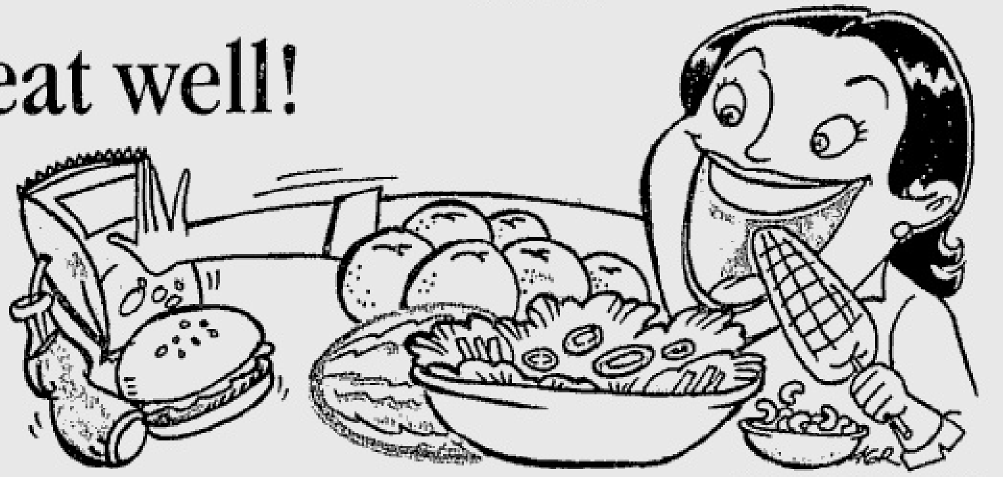


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

**INSIDE OUT**

Cory Quirino

LISA is a homemaker in her late 40s. Her husband John is a hard-driving businessman in his 50s. A health profile of both would describe the woman as slightly overweight (15 lbs.) and her partner as obese (40-50 lbs. beyond the desired limit).

At aerobics class one day, she asked me for ways to help her husband lose weight. My first question was, what were their eating habits like?

It wasn't good—the worst being grabbing a chocolate bar or a bag of chips for midnight snack.

The advice I gave them was simple: Eat less, but absolutely no sweets for junk food at night, and get serious with exercise.

A month later, when the couple's executive checkup was due, the medical results proved alarming. Both were candidates for a heart attack, although Lisa's case was milder because of her intermittent workout. Obviously, they had not taken my advice.

If Hippocrates said food should be your medicine, then ask yourself as you munch on your comfort food: Is this my medicine?

Without meaning to dampen your mood, maybe it is time for you to realize that what you eat can contribute to either your health or illness. Or maybe you know this only too well, except you don't have the time or the inclination to do anything about it. Like Lisa and John.

People who disregard their obesity problem, bad drinking and eating habits, and angry or hostile temperaments are walking time bombs.

Are you one of them? Those who have had their first stroke or bout with hypertension and survived are luckier than those who never got to see the light of day again. Consider the experience nature's warning to change your lifestyle. Don't wait until it's too late.

## Simple guidelines

**Don't skip a meal—especially breakfasts.** A good breakfast should ideally contribute to your nourishment. That's why it's called "break-fast." It breaks the long fast from your last meal (approximately 10-12 hours!). Allow enough calories for this all-important meal. Have a sensible balance of carbohydrates, protein and fat—the three main nutrients.

Example: A Filipino breakfast with lean meat/chorizo and fried egg with chopped tomatoes can be just as nourishing as one bowl of cereal (like Fitness) with bananas, a glass of low-fat, calcium-enriched milk (like Calcium Plus) or a glass of pineapple juice and one hard-boiled egg.

If you have no time for a meal, take a meal replacement drink (like Nestlé Nutren) and have apples or bananas handy at the office.

Three reasons why you should have breakfast:

- Long periods without food cause low blood sugar levels. You may then suffer from headaches, cold sweat, ulcers, bouts of weakness.
- It's a good time to get your day started right and with enough energy.
- Without breakfast, you will be hungry by mid-morning and will look for something sweet. In short, you are trading your balanced meal for an unbalanced snack.

Food should be your medicine, but is the food you're eating good for you?

**Don't overeat.** Eat enough to satisfy your hunger. You will know when to stop if you listen to your body. Remember to eat only when you are hungry.

**Snack time is temptation time.** Choose wisely. Between a high-fat burger and a bag of buttered popcorn, go for the corn.

**Drink healthy thirst quenchers.** Fresh fruit juice is better than canned ones. Some juices are loaded with sugar, so ask for unsweetened alternatives. Don't use alcoholic beverages to quench your thirst. Save it for your evening meal, because they can aid digestion and will be less absorbed into the bloodstream.

**Follow the five-a-day eating plan.** Eat a minimum of five portions of fruits and vegetables daily for good health (potatoes, sweet potatoes, nuts and seeds excluded).

A generous helping of green beans, carrots and peas is considered one portion. Two lettuce leaves don't count for a portion; have a small bowl of salad instead. The total weight of vegetable/fruit portion should be 400 grams or a little less than half a kilo.

Once you get comfortable with healthy food, it will become top-of-mind for you. And the great thing about eating healthy is, you become a role model to others.

So what happened to Lisa and John? Both adopted healthy lifestyles, reached their desired weights, and now look younger than ever.

**Eat-right affirmation:** "Beginning today, I will only eat healthy food to nourish my body. And this is so..."

## Fruit mask

By the way, if you have leftover fruit like apple, papaya or avocado, you can make a beauty mask. Just mash them and apply the mixture on your face. Let it stay for five to seven minutes. Rinse.

Love and light!

# Fitness pros compete in sportsfest

"ONENESS in Fitness" will be held Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the La Salle Greenhills track and field oval, FMAC and baseball field.

The event is the first inter-gym sports festival organized by the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP). Members from different gyms and health clubs will compete in various events including 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes; 4 x 400-meter team relay, sack race, tug o' war, beach volleyball, wall climbing, badminton and cheer dancing.

AFPP directors Sonny Orallo and Irene Almario say the event is part of the group's efforts to unify the local health and fitness industry.

The association also conducts seminars, workshops and lectures on sports, fitness, health and nutrition for its members.

"Oneness in Fitness" is presented by San Miguel Corporation and supported by Enervon Multivitamins, Hanford/Hartmann, Nestlé Yogurt, Bengay, Ponstan, Polar, Lipovitan, Dari Creme Lite and Viva Mineral Water. Media sponsors include the INQUIRER, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star and FM radio stations 103.5 K-Lite and 99.5 RT.

Participating teams include Bodywork Clark Hatch, Club Performance Systems, Fitness Advantage, Fitness First, Foxx Gym, Gold's Gym, Paras Health and Fitness Center, Pinnacle HealthPointe, Technofit Gym, The Spa and Hotel Health Clubs (Westin, Diamond, Mandarin and Discovery).

Other AFPP directors are Shirley Quejada, Mayet Quitco, Donna Paras, Joie Castillo, Edgar Lim, Bam Mogato, Lyndon Jaminola, Ellen Jereza, Francis Gaspar and Anna Unson-Price.

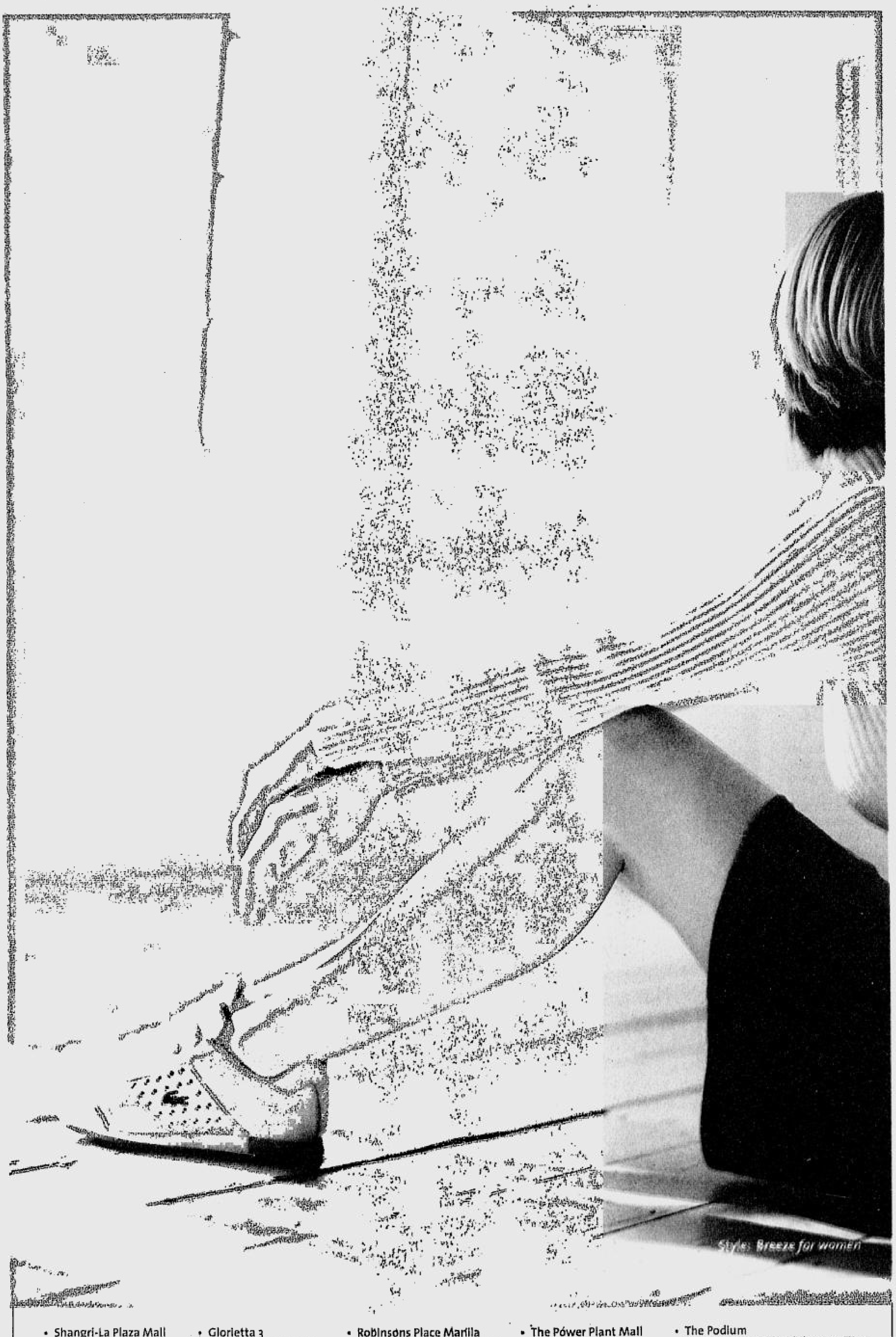
# *Lay forum marks Menopause Day*

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Climacteric Medicine Inc. (PSCM) will join the celebration of World Menopause Day on Oct. 26.

The International Menopause Society has designated the day to recognize women needing special attention and care. With the life expectancy rising, more and more women are expected to live long beyond menopause. Prevention and awareness of all physiological, anatomical and psychological changes in an aging woman is important.

The PSCM and the Philippine Society for The Study of Aging Male are conducting a lay forum on "Is there a danger or risk in taking Hormone Replacement Therapy?" to discuss the effects of hormone deficiency and the need for replacement, 9 a.m.-12 nn at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center, San Juan. Free medical examinations will follow.

Attendance to the forum is free.



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# LifeStyle fitness

With its emphasis on healthy sources of carbohydrates and fats, the South Beach diet is the darling of the year

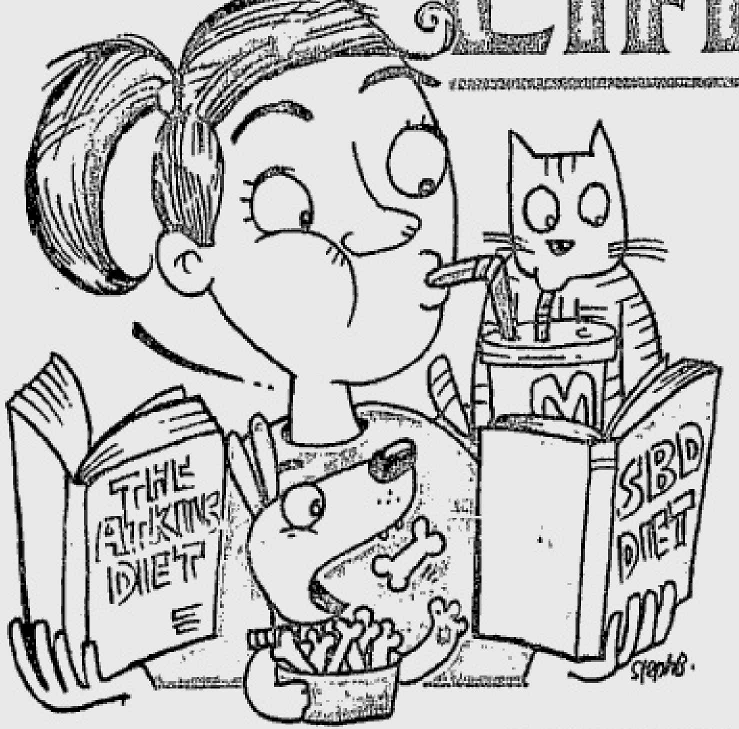

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

# A safer alternative to the Atkins diet

**WELL AND GOOD**

*Tina Juan*

THE HIGH-PROTEIN, high-fat, and low-carbohydrate Atkins diet has been receiving some positive press lately with a few studies finding that cholesterol levels are not affected negatively, at least in the short term, in spite of the high amounts of saturated fat that is recommended by the diet.

However, scientists know that weight loss from any type of diet will initially lower cholesterol in overweight and obese people, so the question remains whether followers of the diet will be able to sustain normal cholesterol when they have reached their optimum weight and are on the maintenance phase of the diet.

There is also the issue of an increased risk of colon cancer, which is associated with a diet rich in red meat. Still controversial is the long-term effect of a high-protein intake on the kidneys and the bones. And scientists can't just disregard hundreds of studies linking saturated fat with heart disease based on the results of a handful of short-term experiments.

The National Institutes of Health is currently conducting a five-year large-scale study on the Atkins diet but the results will not be known for quite some time yet. So the jury is still out on the safety of following the Atkins way of eating for life.

I have a client who recently discovered she had elevated cholesterol and a kidney stone after following the Atkins for a year. She isn't the only one I know who has had this experience. Registered dietician Sanirose Orbeta has had many patients referred to her by cardiologists because of the same results from following the Atkins for a prolonged period.

And yet I can understand the love affair many people have with the Atkins. They have had more success at losing weight with it compared to the traditional low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet.

The reason for their success is that they don't feel hungry with the Atkins. Upon closer analysis, they were also doing the traditional route the wrong way by eating refined and processed sources of carbohydrates like white bread and pasta and low-fat products with lots of sugar like fat-free cookies. Refined carbohydrates plus a low consumption of protein will lead to cravings and constant hunger.

The problem is that, since the Atkins is so carb-restrictive that even in its maintenance phase only 40 to 60 grams of carbohydrates are recommended, you can end up missing out on the cancer-fighting potential of the five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables recommended by the American Institute of Cancer Research and other such organizations.

## Solution

Well, for those of you who like eating low-carb because it controls your sugar cravings and helps you lose weight but are concerned about the long-term effects of eating mostly steak and pork chops and hardly any fruits, there may be a solution to your dilemma.

I first heard about the South Beach Diet, or SBD as its fans affectionately call it, when Prevention Magazine published an article last year written by cardiologist Arthur Agatston.

In it, Agatston explained that he created the SBD because he became disillusioned with low-fat, high-carbohydrate diets since they did not work for his patients over the long haul. He said he was not concerned about the appearance of his patients, but he wanted to find a diet that would help prevent or reverse heart disease.

The SBD has been receiving a lot of attention lately and is the diet darling of the year. According to the publishers, Agatston's book, "The South Beach Diet," is fast approaching the sales of Dr. Atkins' "New Diet Revolution."

The SBD has been called an Atkins clone, but Agatston is quick to point out that his diet is not low-carb. Unlike the Atkins which restricts most carbohydrates and allows an unlimited quantity of food high in saturated fat, the SBD teaches people how to choose the right carbohydrates and the right fats "to lose weight, lower your cholesterol, reduce your risk of heart disease and diabetes, and get rid of cravings without feeling hungry."

In an interview with WebMD, Agatston explained the cornerstone of his diet.

"The key elements are using the good fats—Mediterranean oils, olive oil, canola oil, the omega-3 fish oils and the oils found in almost all nuts, along with the good carbohydrates, which are the vegetables, the whole-grain breads and whole fruits. That, combined with strategic snacking, controls hunger and prevents the cravings that occur to so many Americans shortly after they finish a meal.

"The saturated fats cause blood to be sticky, they cause vessels to constrict, and they have negative effects on long term on insulin and sugar metabolism. The good fats that we talked about actually help prevent heart attack and stroke and they also improve insulin and sugar metabolism long-term. This helps

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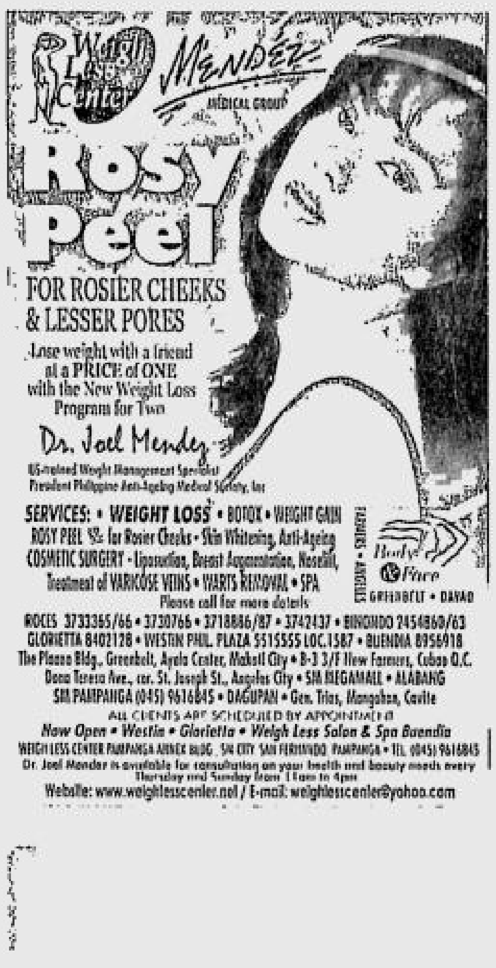
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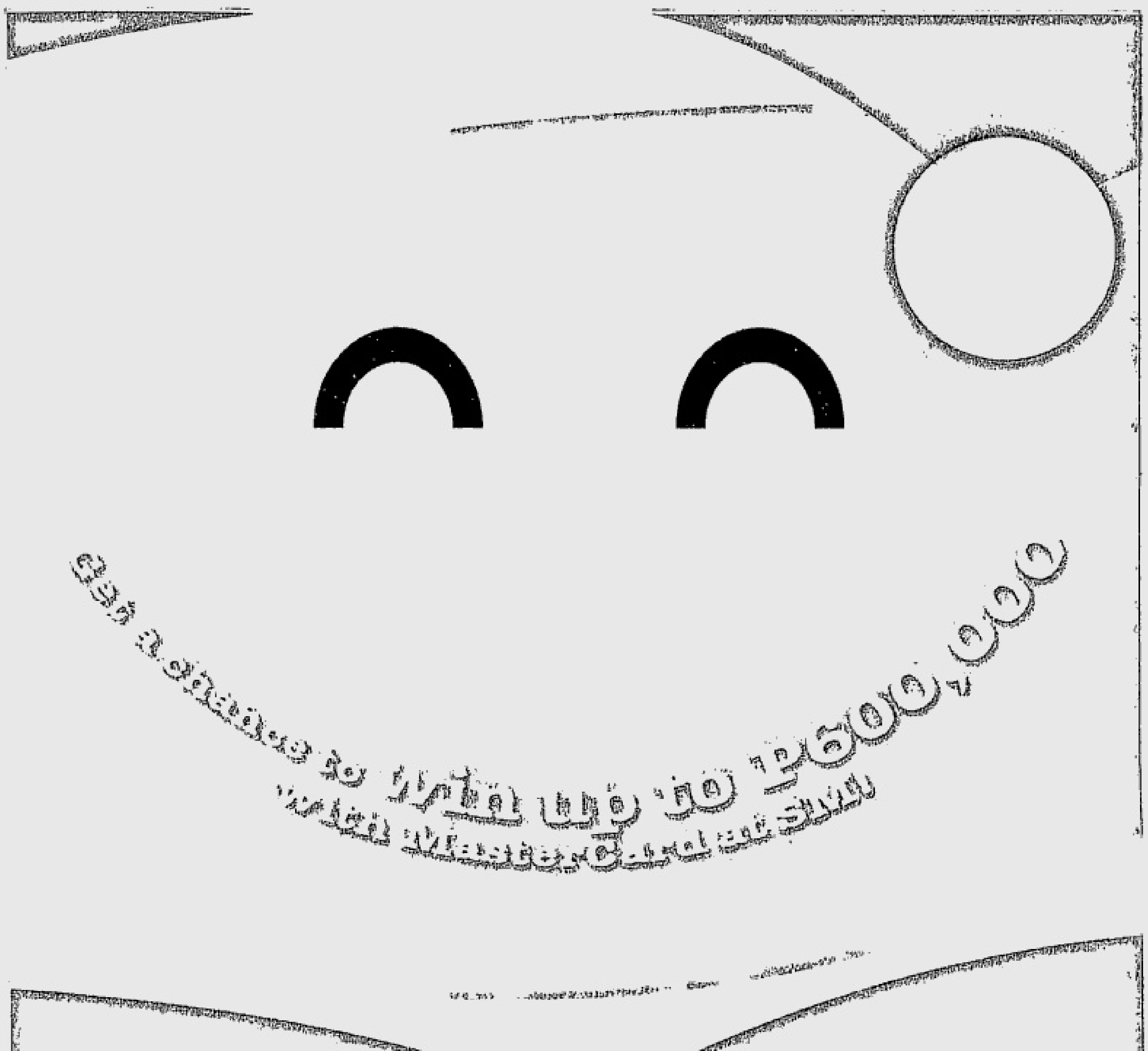
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OCTOBER 14 TUESDAY

**RUSTAN'S** director for store operations Vida Estrella, Rustan's director for marketing Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena and Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard present a certificate of recognition to the authentic *mariachi* band that enlivened the Mexican Bazaar.

**CARLOS** de Torres, Guillermo Gomez, Rocio Rufrancos de Torres and headturner Beth Victoria

**THEY** love Mexico. Dr. Ramon Batungbacal with Maricris Olbes, Rustan's designer Criselda Lontok and Tony Olbes

# Munching on tacos, dancing to mariachis

## WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

THROUGH a super grand fiesta that got the invitees all excited, Rustan's, together with the Embajada de Mexico, held a fab Mexican Bazaar at Rustan's Makati recently in celebration of 50 years of Philippine-Mexican diplomatic relations, *palanggas*.

An authentic (and all good-looking!) Mexican *mariachi* band, plus tons of vivid colors representing Mexico's unique culture, fired up the occasion, which also featured an outstanding ballet performance by Don **Guillermo Gomez**, no less.

Señorita **Christine Carlos**, the elegant host, gave due recognition to the movers and shakers of this colorful Mexican Bazaar by calling on them to join a ceremonial toast.

*El simpatico* Mexican Ambassador H.E. **Enrique Hubbard**, together with Rustan's director for marketing **Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena**, Rustan's director for store operations **Vida T. Estrella** and Ambassador **Jose Zaide** of the Department of Foreign Affairs led the toast.

Like a good Mexican fiesta, a fun *piñata* in the shape of a Mexican hat was also broken, raining down a shower of confetti and sweets which sent the chi-chi guests rushing for grabs, *palanggas*.

Next was a pulsating performance by **Myrza Maldonado** and the *mariachi* band that got all the guests dancing and singing to the Mexican beat right up to midnight.

And a very game Ambassador Hubbard even stepped up front and belted out popular Mexican songs, with everyone applauding and asking for "more! more! more!"

Rustan's laid out gorgeous Mexican merchandise and yummy Mexican food and drinks.

Having a great time were Stores Specialists Inc.'s magnum president **Zenaida "Nedy" Tantoco**; People's Republic of China Ambassador **Wang Chungui**; Guatemalan Consul **Jorge Francisco Stevens**; French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**; Panamanian Ambassador **Juan C. Escalona**; Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Santana Ramirez**; Spanish Ambassador and *el amigo todos* (as in, a friend of everyone) **Ignacio Sagaz** and Russian ambassador **Anatoli Nebogatov**—plus so many more like them from the diplomatic set, dahlings.

Attracting loads of attention was **Beth Victoria**, who was dressed in an eye-catching Mexican-inspired outfit and who came solo, since her constant friend was not around. Wonder why?

As *moi* breezed out of the affair, cries of "Ole!" and "Viva, Mexico!" were still ringing in my ears, *palanggas*.

### Philips CEO drops by

Philips did it again, dahlings, when mega top officials, employees, dealers and business partners of Philips Philippines gave a fabulous welcome to their Asia-Pacific CEO, **Jan Oosterveld**, who visited the Philippines for the first time.

One of the highlights of Oosterveld's visit was an audience with President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** in Malacañang, where he assured the President of "Philips' long-term commitment to the development of the local economy."

The man of the hour was also the guest of honor at the launch of Philips' Brand Foundation, held at the grand Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Oosterveld and his super nice wife, **Consuelo**, were welcomed to the launch by Philips Philippines CEO Atty. **Menardo Mateo**, together with other Philips heavyweights led by the general manager for Consumer Electronics, brilliant **Angelo Valenton**.

Also showing up in support of the company were Royal Netherlands Embassy deputy head for missions **Ric Hettinga**; Procter and Gamble Philippines general manager and vice president **Johnip G. Cua**; Philippine Economic Zone Authority director general **Lilia B. de Lima**; PSI Technologies chairman and CEO **Arthur Young**; Ionics EMS CEO **Jan Doets**; **Rudy Ong** of RJ Homes; **Jackie Lim-Ong** and **Walter Lim** of Abenson; **Jimmy** and **Albert Lim** of Emilio S. Lim Appliances and **Manny Gutierrez** and **Eliza Abando** of DDB Philippines.

During dinner, Oosterveld was very vocal about his feelings for our country. "I'm happy to have had the opportunity to visit the Philippines," he said. "I've heard so much about this country and its warm and gracious people. My wife and I feel privileged to have experienced for ourselves the hospitality of the Filipinos."

Last year alone, *palanggas*, Philips posted sales of a cool EUR 31.8 billion. The glitzy affair was thus the perfect way to celebrate for a global company that employs 170,000 people in 60 countries, 5,000 of them in the Philippines.

### Grand Lacson reunion

The first get-together of all descendants of **Domingo Lacson** and **Fernanda Petronilla** is set to take place on Jan. 2-4, 2004, *palanggas*.

Present at the meeting to plan for this event were the queen of Bacolod's best parties, Doña **Nena Lacson Garcia**; **Bobby Lacson**; **Artie Lacson**; **Larry Lacson**; witty **Charlie Jimenez**; world traveler **Edouard L. Garcia**; **Anna Balcells**; **Nena Rosello**; and **Eva** and **Anne Gorriceta**.

The reunion will be in Negros, and everyone is excited about the affair, with many already exchanging emails and family trivia.

The Lacsons from Cavite have already sent in a diskette containing their family tree. The **Dacudaos** of Mindanao are tracing family branches up to the eighth generation. And a contingent from Bacolod even went to Jaro to look for a final draft of **Lucio Lacson's** branch.

Calling, too, the descendants of **Juana Lacson** and **Crisping Paguntalan**; **Apolonia Lacson** and **Pedro Arroyo**; **Baldomera Lacson** and **Aniceto Ledesma**; **Guillermo Lacson** and **Camarines de Laraga** and other relatives, please e-mail any info and suggestions to lacsonreunion04@yahoo.com.

Bowling tournaments, theme parties and famille picnics are on the agenda for this get-together. Naturellement, intrigues are also seeping into the planned affair. The southern social set is abuzz about which famille tree does controversial senator **Ping Lacson** belong to.

Well, it may have its own share of controversy, but with its all-star cast, this family reunion will certainly go down in history as one helluva good time, that's for sure!

**FRENCH** Ambassador Renee Veyret with well-loved Cuban Ambassador Ramon Alonso Medina and wife Lilia Mercedes

**STORES** Specialists Inc. president Zenaida Tantoco with Baltazar Endriga and DJ Lopez

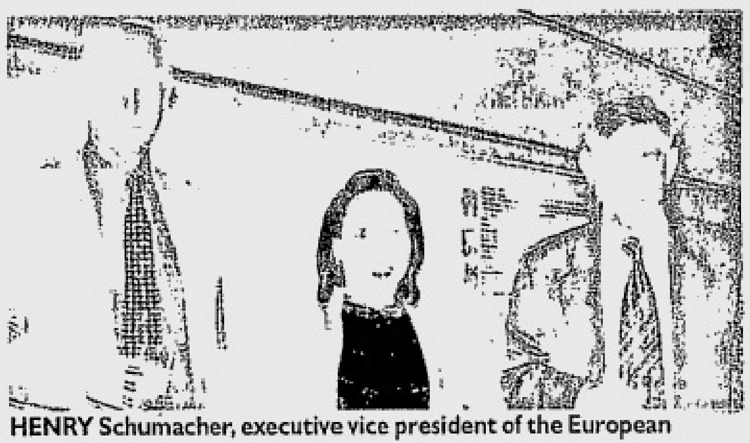
**LOOKING GOOD.** Nuzhet Kazmi and Merium Hussein Kazmi of Pakistan

**STELLA** Blanco with Adriana Cerda and super Mexican singer Myrza Maldonado

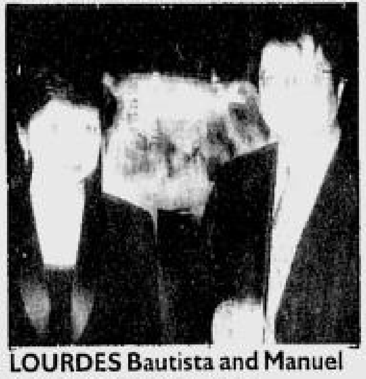
**DOÑA** Nena Lacson Garcia, Rita Villacin, Larry Lacson, Artie Lacson, Charlie Jimenez, Anne Gorriceta, Edouard Garcia, Nena Rosello, Dr. Ver Lacson, Bobby Lacson, Anna Balcells and Eva Gorriceta

**SEATED** are Carmen Rossello, Anna Balcells and Vicky Lacson; standing are Anton Corro, Sal Lacson, Mike Suarez, Monet Lacson, Junior Franco and Bobby Lacson at a meeting of the organizing committee for the Lacson famille grand reunion

**OUR** Friendly Philips: Philips Phils. CEO Menardo Mateo and Royal Philips Electronics CEO for Asia-Pacific Jan Oosterveld



**HENRY** Schumacher, executive vice president of the European Chamber of Commerce, with Tita Mateo and Ric Hettinga, Royal Netherlands Embassy deputy head for missions



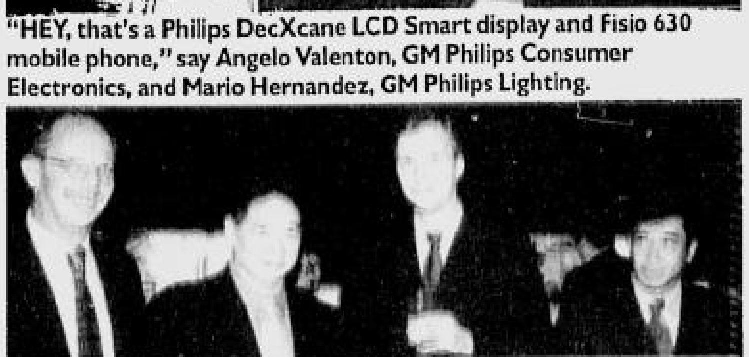
**LOURDES** Bautista and Manuel Salak of ING Bank N.V.

**MR.** Charmer himself, Michael Chang of Philips Singapore, with Ed Anselmo of Rhine Marketing

**MARK** Sta. Maria and Michelle Cal

**ERIC** Lim of Automatic Center

**"HEY,** that's a Philips DecXcane LCD Smart display and Fisio 630 mobile phone," say Angelo Valenton, GM Philips Consumer Electronics, and Mario Hernandez, GM Philips Lighting.



**STEVEN** Brader, general manager, Philips Semiconductors Cabuyao; Arthur Young, chair and CEO, PSI Technologies; Jan Doets, CEO, Ionics EMS; and Jun Sta. Maria, general manager, Philips Semiconductors, Makati

# A safer alternative to the Atkins diet

From page D1

the diet to become a lifestyle with long-term weight loss and improvement in blood chemistries, rather than just a short-term fix."

## Phases

The SBD has three phases, while the Atkins has four. In both diets, the first phase lasts for two weeks and is the strictest part.

In phase one of the Atkins diet, called the "induction phase," only 15 to 20 grams of carbohydrates are allowed (equivalent to three cups of lettuce) but unlimited amounts of protein and fat (no matter the source) are encouraged.

Atkins claims the induction phase will put the body into a state of "ketosis" where the body will burn stored fats because of the virtual absence of carbohydrates.

Phase one of the SBD also lasts for two weeks and also restricts carbohydrates, but not as strictly as Atkins. It does not tell you how many grams of carbohydrates to eat, but gives a list of foods that are allowed and not allowed during this phase.

Foods allowed are low-fat sources of meat like chicken and fish and less fatty cuts of pork and beef, low-fat or fat-free cheeses, nuts, eggs, low-fat tofu, vegetables and beans. Foods that are not allowed during this phase are high-fat sources of meat, full-fat cheeses, starchy vegetables like potatoes, all fruits and fruit juices, all breads and grains (even the whole grain type), all kinds of dairy and alcohol.

Agatston told WebMD, "We are not so strict in the first phase that we put patients into ketosis. Ketosis often causes excessive water loss early. We found it is unnecessary for significant early weight loss. We teach our dieters to use the glycemic index, which is a measure of how fast a carbohydrate raises your blood sugar, and if you consume low glycemic index carbohydrates, you can do very well on a high carbohydrate diet."

Even though the SBD has a healthier approach to phase one because it allows more types of vegetables and legumes (kidney beans, black beans, green beans) and does not encourage meat high in saturated fat, it is the first phase of both diets that I believe causes false expectations of quick weight loss.

Much of the weight that is lost is in fact water, which is why weight loss slows down to one or two pounds a week or even plateaus for a while in the succeeding phases.

This leads many people to continually go back to phase one in an attempt to jump-start weight loss again. I know someone who continuously follows a cycle of three weeks of phase one of the Atkins and one week of eating all the carbohydrates she wants. She has been able to lose and maintain her weight using this method, but how healthy can it be to eat this way for life?

Even Agatston warns that a person should not stay in phase one for a long time. "Phase 1 is to get rid of carbohydrate cravings. Once this is accomplished, it is fine to begin Phase 2. For those who are quite overweight, they often are doing very well on Phase 1, they are not hungry and do not want to leave it. The rapid weight loss in Phase 1 also gives a very positive feedback.

"The problem with staying in Phase 1 and losing too much weight too rapidly is that you lose muscle and bone mass, which is very metabolically active. If you lose muscle and bone mass, you will be burning fewer calories while you are sleeping. For this reason we recommend exercise, which helps to maintain muscle and bone mass and therefore a higher metabolism or higher metabolic rate. We recommend moving to Phase 2 at least by the third or fourth week. The more there is to lose, the longer it is okay to stay on Phase 1, but we still like to see movement to Phase 2 at least by the third or fourth week."

## Appropriate

The other phases are basically a progression of gradually introducing carbohydrate foods back into the diet. The dieter is supposed to find the appropriate amount of carbohydrates that he or she can eat while still continuing to lose weight and eventually to maintain the weight loss.

Like I mentioned above, the Atkins is still quite carb-restrictive even in the maintenance phase. The SBD, on the other hand, does not tell you how many carbohydrate grams to eat but instead advises people to choose fiber-rich carbohydrates instead of refined carbs, which have been stripped of most of the fiber.

So even in phase two of the SBD, whole grain breads, brown rice, oatmeal, milk and most fruits are allowed. What is still prohibited and for good reason are refined carbs.

The third phase of the SBD is the maintenance phase where you can "cheat" once in a while on ice cream, cake and cookies but still maintain your weight by eating mostly lean protein, high-fiber carbohydrates, and healthy fats like monounsaturated fat and omega-3 fatty acids.

The second and third phase of the SBD look and sound suspiciously like the Health Eating Pyramid of Walter Willet of the Harvard School of Public Health that recommends eating the same types of healthy food and avoiding the refined carbohydrates.

This is probably why registered dieticians like Lynn Grieger of ivillage.com have called the SBD the "best low-carb diet." The SBD also gets a thumbs-up from the nutrition advisory board of Prevention Magazine, which is composed of top dieticians and scientists from some of the best universities.

With its emphasis on healthy sources of carbohydrates and fats, the SBD is by far a safer alternative to the Atkins. However, if you have a family history of kidney disease, get yourself checked first because even though the SBD isn't as high in protein as the Atkins, you may still be at risk for kidney stones and other kidney problems.

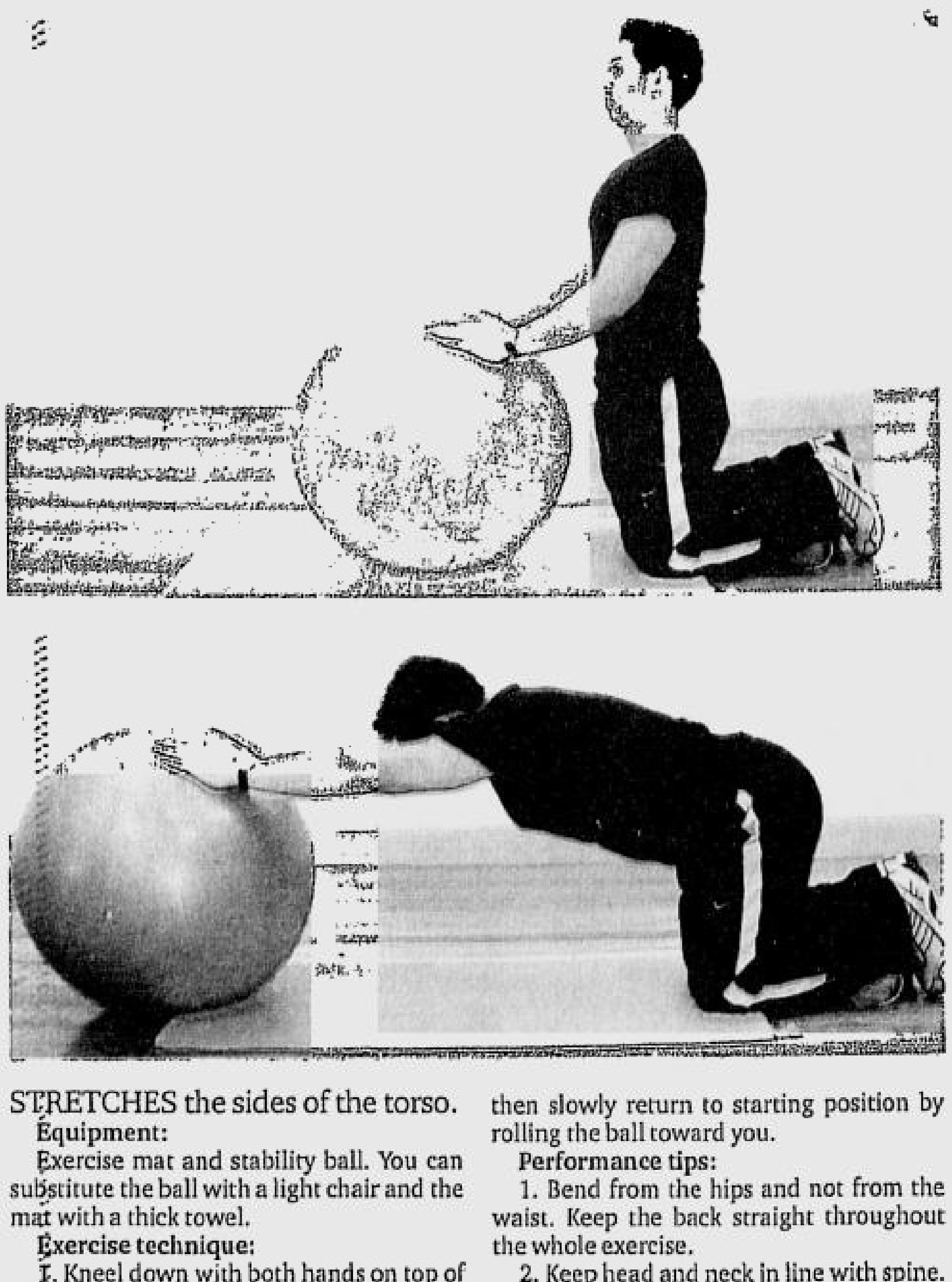
Visit www.southbeachdiet.com.

*Next week: Understanding the glycymic index*

*For past articles and exercises and suggestions for future topics, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info.*

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

## *Bend-over stretch with stability ball*



STRETCHES the sides of the torso.

**Equipment:**

Exercise mat and stability ball. You can substitute the ball with a light chair and the mat with a thick towel.

**Exercise technique:**

1. Kneel down with both hands on top of the ball.
2. Bend from the hips and roll the ball away from you until your arms are straight.
3. Hold for the desired length of time, then slowly return to starting position by rolling the ball toward you.

**Performance tips:**

1. Bend from the hips and not from the waist. Keep the back straight throughout the whole exercise.
2. Keep head and neck in line with spine. Do not hang head downwards.
3. Keep on breathing. Do not hold your breath as you hold the stretch.

**Repetitions:**

Hold for 10-30 seconds.

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### FAQs (frequently asked questions)

***In enrolling my dependents, can I enroll them in a plan different from mine?***

Yes, you may enroll your dependents in a room and board plan different from that of yours (principal member). However, there are two conditions that need to be met: (1) That their room and board plan does not exceed (be of higher coverage) than that of your own and (2) that all your dependents are enrolled in one room level.

### Meet your MEDICard Team

**Dr. Elmer M. Dela Cruz** is MEDICard's accredited specialist in Manila Doctors Hospital. He specializes in illnesses of the ears, nose and throat. He finished Medicine at the De la Salle University and received his specialization residency from Manila Doctors Hospital. He also holds a Master's degree in Clinical Audiology from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Dela Cruz is the current President of the Academy of Filipino Audiologists and is a Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology. Members may visit him for consultations at MEDICard's satellite clinic from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 1 to 3 PM.

All MEDICard members' needs at Las Piñas City Medical Center are facilitated through Medical Coordinator, **Dr. Esmeralda V. Dela Rosa.** Doktora Dela Rosa has been an accredited provider for more than 10 years now. She is a graduate of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas and later took specialization residency in Internal Medicine at East Avenue Medical Center. Las Piñas City Medical Center is located at Marcos Alvarez, Talon V, Las Piñas City.

For dental consultations in the Batangas region, members may seek the services of **Dr. Marecil Catalina Ramirez**. Dr. Ramirez, who holds clinic at the 2/F, Mercado Bldg., P. Burgos St., Batangas City, finished her studies in Dentistry at the Lyceum of Batangas. This recent addition to our team of dentists is a member of the Philippine Dental Association. Members may visit her clinic from Mondays to Saturdays, 8:30 AM to 5:30 in the afternoon.

**We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.**

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# Animé party animates ice skating rink

MORE than a hundred members of the Animé Club recently put on their animé best and participated in the Animé on Ice festivities at the SM Megamall Ice Skating Rink.

The rink was transformed into an animé world as members not only dressed the part, but also acted out their characters' part in the contest.

It was not surprising that this year's judges—Culture Clash magazine editor in chief Jessica James Palabay, Questor Extreme magazine's Bebert Lacuna, Level Up Games' Paul Mendoza and K-Zone's Eric Marquez—had a difficult time choosing the winners.

**GABRIELLE** Espina as Cobra Commander from "G.I. Joe"

**ANIMÉ on Ice best in costume winners: First prize, Dianne Lopez as Yuna from "Final Fantasy X2" (center); second prize, Christel Batalir as Lei Lei of "Dark Stalkers" (right) and third prize, Aileen Javier as Sakura from "Card Captor Sakura" (left)**

Dianne Lopez as Yuma from "Final Fantasy X2" stood out to win the first prize, while Christel Batillir as Lei Lei from "Dark Stalkers" and Aileen Aei as Sakura from "Card Captor Sakura" were named second and third prize winners, respectively.

Daryl Lim, on the other hand, dressed as Karin from "Dakilang Manggagawa," was named Best Animé Skater. Prizes included Internet cards and various magazines from Japan.

Other participants included Charlene Datan and Choi Elegado as Priestess and Wizard from "Ragnarok Online"; Rovie Carlos Isidoro as Space Sheriff from "Sharivan"; Ernie Beras as Assasin from "Ragnarok"; Cathy de los Santos as Sailor Mars and Hazel Velas as Rubymoon from "Card Captor Sakura" and Roy Locsin and Jaric Marchadeska as Dark Priests from "Ragnarok."

**ROVIE Carl Isidoro as Space Seriff from "Sharivan"**

**ERNIE Beras as Assasin from "Ragnarok"**

Elben as Miroku from "Inayasha," Gabrielle Espina as Cobra Commander from "G.I. Joe" and Jay Austria as Loki from "Ragnarok" were other crowd favorites.

"Final Fantasy" characters were also very popular during the event. Aya as Paine, Nuriko as Rikku, Acsyle as Eiko Carol, Mara as Garnet and Benjamyrr as Zidane were among those who played the characters.

Animé Club members also came in groups, like the "Ice Misune" group consisting of Hazel, Mei, Aileen, Teri, Aubrey and Jo.

Animé on Ice was sponsored by Culture Clash, Level Up Games and the Broline Internet Company.

**JARIC Marchadeska as Priest from "Ragnarok"**

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# Court frees 14 Abu suspects in Basilan kidnapping

Story on Page A23

## 17 cops in Kuratong case report for work

**By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza**

SEVENTEEN of the 33 police officers and men co-accused with Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the reopened Kuratong Baleleng case have reported to their respective units at Camp Crame.

"All officers under my custody have

17 COPS/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- **Ford allots $50 million to push RP export plan** BUSINESS /B1
- **Militant groups bent on anti-Bush march** ACROSS/ A17
- **Eala blasts Limpot ruling** SPORTS/ A25

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Wednesday, October 15, 2003 ★★ 76.pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 309 P15
website: www.inq7.net

# Naia 3 'extortion' bared

COVER-UP: MMDA workers rush the fencing off of portions of Roxas Boulevard to hide a squatters' colony near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in preparation for the visit of US President George W. Bush on Saturday.

ROGER MARGALLO

## *Climaco, 2 lawyers of GMA implicated*

**By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr. and Gil Cabacungan Jr.**

A PRIVATE counsel of President Macapagal-Arroyo had demanded "several tens of millions of US dollars" from the German airport operator Fraport AG to facilitate the ouster of its Filipino partner from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project so that groups favored by Malacañang could take part in the project, according to officials of the German firm.

Fraport chair Wilhelm Bender and vice chair Manfred Schölch disclosed the demand of lawyer F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza in a letter to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) on Sept. 17, which they submitted through the Washington-based law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

Reacting to the charges, Raoul Angangco, a partner of Villaraza in a law firm, said "it was Fraport which approached us but we declined."

The German company is requesting arbitration by the ICSID because Ms Macapagal declared null and void on Nov. 29, 2002 the contracts granted to Philippine International Air Terminals

NAIA/ A4

## Metropolis spruced up for Bush

**By Volt Contreras**

METRO Manila is undergoing a P10-million makeover in time for the eight-hour visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

But the expense is well worth it, if you ask Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

"It's like preparing for a fiesta wherein you have to clean up," Fernando said in Filipino when the INQUIRER caught up with him as he supervised an MMDA clearing unit on Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Monday.

"*Kung para nga sa walang kakwenta-kwentang kumpare nag-*

METROPOLIS/ A8

### POLL FUND RAPS

## PCSO says records open to auditors

**By Tina Santos, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac**

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office accepted the challenge of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson that its records be reviewed by an independent auditor, a day after he claimed that the PCSO had funded the printing of posters that urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in next year's elections.

Lacson yesterday said he might deliver a fourth privilege speech against the First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. But he said Chapter Four of his exposé would depend on the "validation that we are making on the documents, on the information we keep receiving from people" of more alleged corrupt activities.

At a press briefing, Raul Ancheta, chief of staff of PCSO General Manager Rosario Uriarte, said that all PCSO books were open for review.

Lacson said in his privilege speech that "Run, Gloria, Run" posters were sponsored by the "Gawin Natin-Lakas Pinoy," which received funding from the PCSO, an agency under the Office of the President.

He said Lakas Pinoy asked the PCSO for money for a feeding program called "Feeding Project of Gawin Natin Lakas Pinoy," which was reportedly approved by Ms Macapagal after only a week. The P2 million did not go

PCSO/ A21

## GMA denies policemen executed Al-Ghozi

**By Juliet Javellana, TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday dismissed speculation that Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was deliberately killed, even as Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya disowned a claim by a military officer that the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response team "bought" the Indonesian terrorist from his Moro rebel coddlers and then killed him.

"How could that have happened? Those are allegations, so let's not be quick to make some conclusions," Abaya told reporters.

The President issued a statement strongly backing the police action. "I stand by the operational report of the authorities on this case. The important thing is that we are steadily moving forward together with our allies in the region in neutralizing the key leaders of the JI (Jemaah Islamiyah)."

Ms Macapagal justified the fate that befell Al-Ghozi, who escaped from police headquarters in Camp Crame three months ago and brought international embarrassment to her administration.

"This reduces the weight of terrorist threats across the broad range of targets across Southeast Asia," she said.

Ms Macapagal, who flew to General Santos City on Monday to view Al-Ghozi's remains, described the fugitive as a "key domino in the ring of international terrorist conspiracies."

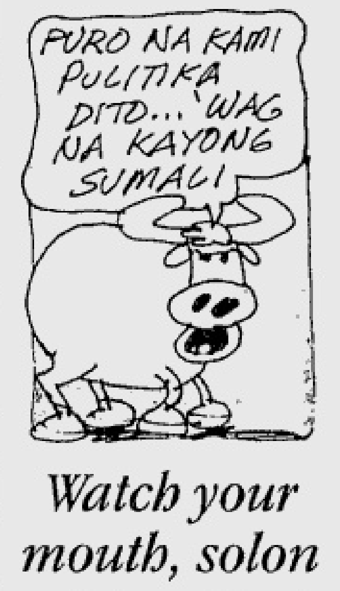
"His death reinforces the gains reaped by the capture of Hambali in Thailand and the recent conviction of the terrorist who bombed the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta," she said.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang did not see the need for an investigation of

GMA/ A20

THE CRATE containing the remains of slain Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi arrives in Manila.

ROGER MARGALLO


PURO NA KAMI PULITIKA DITO... 'WAG NA KAYONG SUMALI

## *Watch your mouth, solon advises Bush*

**By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana**

THE BOTTOM line is, Dubya should watch his mouth.

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) yesterday aired a piece of unsolicited advice for US President George W. Bush, who is due for an eight-hour visit on

WATCH/ A8

## Recaptured Abu suspect claims he is military agent

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**SPECIAL REPORT**

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"I am a government asset, a deep penetration agent."

Omar Opik Lasal, who escaped from Camp Crame on July 14 together with Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and fellow Abu Sayyaf detainee Abdulmukim Edris, told the INQUIRER he had betrayed the Abu Sayyaf by spying for the Armed Forces.

Lasal, the only one of the three escapees to be recaptured, also said he helped the authorities track Al-Ghozi down by leaving "traces" behind. Al-Ghozi, the top bomb-maker of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, was killed in what the Philippine National Police said was a shootout on Sunday.

Lasal also said he was not Merang Abante, as the authorities have claimed. He said the real Merang Abante was a cousin who was also with the Abu Sayyaf.

Lasal said he joined the Abu Sayyaf in 1992 when the organization was still run by its founder, Abdurajak Janjalani.

He said a certain Ustadz Bendang of Pilas Island in Lantawan town was instrumental in recruiting him. "Every day he visited our house and convinced me to join them."

"Even Abdurajak personally tried to convince me. I was amazed by the dedication of these preachers then. They were not violent then."

When he accepted the offer, he was immediately brought to Camp Al Medina in Kapayawan, Isabela and there he met the other Abu Sayyaf leaders, like Radulan Sahiron and Jul Asbi.

Lasal stayed with the Abu Sayyaf for seven months. His task, he said, was that of an errand boy.

He said he left the group when he heard about bomb attacks on a sea vessel and a disco house that the Abu Sayyaf carried out.

But Lasal claimed that even

RECAPTURED/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANGA, PDI RESEARCH/10/15/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Senate OKs antiterror treaties

TO BOOST the country's image during the state visit of US President George W. Bush, the Senate yesterday passed six antiterrorism treaties on third and final reading.

The plenary unanimously ratified the treaties on the insistence of Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the foreign relations committee.

Villar said these were "important and necessary instruments … to finally win the battle against terror."

He said the accords provided the legal framework within which multinational cooperation against global terrorism could further advance.

The six new treaties are: an international convention for the suppression of financing for terrorist organizations; protocol for the suppression of acts of violence at airports; international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, which requires member-countries to declare these bombings as criminal offenses; convention for the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection aimed at preventing terrorist acts to destroy aircraft; protocol for the suppression of acts against the safety of fixed platforms (artificial island installations or structures permanently attached to the seabed for exploration or exploitation of natural resources); and convention for the suppression of acts against the safety of maritime navigation.

During his sponsorship speech, Villar cited the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York as the most prominent example of the extent of international terrorism.

"No country—developed or otherwise—is safe from the threat of terrorism," he said.

*Michael Lim Ubac*

# House body opens debates on Davide impeachment rap

By Carlito Pablo

**VOTING 35 to 22, the House committee on justice yesterday deemed the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other justices of the high court as "sufficient in form," paving the way for debates to start into the substance of the complaint.**

House leaders predict, however, that the complaint will go no further when debates on its merits start next week at the committee level.

The complaint, filed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, arose from the installation in power of then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo in the wake of the people power uprising that ousted Estrada in January 2001.

In his complaint, Estrada said his ouster was illegal and questioned the eight SC justices' participation in the Edsa II uprising that toppled him.

Estrada partly based his complaint on a book by Justice Artemio Panganiban, who admitted that he and Davide made the decision to swear in Ms Macapagal as the new President on Jan. 20, 2001 after reflecting on a passage from the Bible that they read that morning.

Estrada welcomed the favorable committee vote on his complaint. In a statement, he said the committee members' stand "brings hope to our dispirited people that the fight for the restoration of their shattered confidence in our judicial system has started to gain adherents."

The proponents of the complaint in the House, led by Estrada's former Executive Secretary Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, almost failed to get the minimum 35 votes out of the committee's 69 members.

As deliberations wound down yesterday, only 34 had voted in favor of the complaint's sufficiency in form.

The clincher vote was made at the last minute, through notice, by Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc of the Nationalist People's Coalition. Six members abstained and six others did not vote.

The issue of whether the complaint is sufficient in substance will also require a majority vote of 35 to avoid being dismissed.

But a dismissal can be reversed by a vote of one-third of all House members after the committee report is submitted for approval.

Aside from Davide and Panganiban, the respondents are Justices Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona.

Another complaint against Davide has been filed by a congressman, this time for "technical malversation" over alleged irregularities in the use of the Judiciary Development Fund.

Davide was accused of allegedly using part of the JDF to construct without authorization a number of "mansions and cottages" for the magistrates in Baguio City.

The Chief Justice, who has described the House probe into the JDF as an "unprecendented breach of the doctrine on separation of powers between Congress and the judiciary," has written to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to put a stop to the investigation.

Zamora said he did not think the committee members would agree as the main issue was how Davide had been making use of the JDF amid complaints of irregularities by judiciary employees.

# GMA meets AFP junior officers anew to discuss grievances

DESPITE assurances from top military officials that coup threats had abated, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday again met to discuss grievances with a group of military men, this time with the 250 sergeants-major who serve as the link between the officers corps and enlisted personnel.

The President had an hourlong lunch with the 250 sergeants-major, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita at the enlisted men's club at Camp Aguinaldo.

The sergeants-major raised the issue of the promised fresh supply of combat boots and salary increases during their dialogue with the President.

Abaya, who talked with reporters after the lunch, said the President went around and listened to the sergeants-majors' problems and assured them that she would attend to them.

Abaya said the manufacture of 42,000 pairs of new combat boots had already started following the release of P100 million and the completion of the bidding process by the budget department.

"If we have enough [boots], we give priority to those engaged in combat," he told reporters.

Sgt. Maj. Mario Gabriel said the President's visit was a big morale-booster.

"Just imagine the President coming for lunch. That rarely happens," he said, adding that the President had thanked them for following the chain of command during the July 27 failed coup.

"She was very thankful for the support. No sergeant-major was involved in an anomaly or in any coup," Gabriel said.

Abaya dismissed speculations that the visit was part of a loyalty check on the officers and men of the AFP.

"This is a continuing program of the President to get the pulse of the different levels of the members of the Armed Forces," he said.

*TJ Burgonio*

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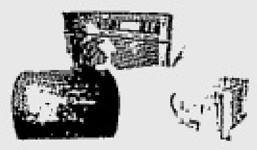

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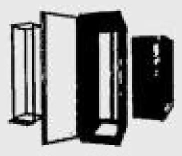

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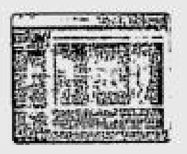

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# CBCP draft less harsh on erring priests

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has finished the final and less harsh draft of the guidelines that would govern cases of sexual misconduct against priests.

Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, head of the CBCP episcopal commission on the clergy, said the draft was finalized two days ago, and that the initial provision expelling a priest who had committed a single offense had been struck out.

Rosales said the protocol would be discussed by the CBCP plenary council next month, prior to approval and submission to the Vatican.

The guidelines focused on four things, he said: help for the victims, healing of the communities and parishes affected by the scandals, and rehabilitation and "restoration" of the accused priest.

Also covered, according to Rosales, is the procedure for the assessment of guilt. He did not elaborate.

He noted that the "one strike and out" provision was removed because it was "too punitive." However, he said, the remaining sanctions were still stringent.

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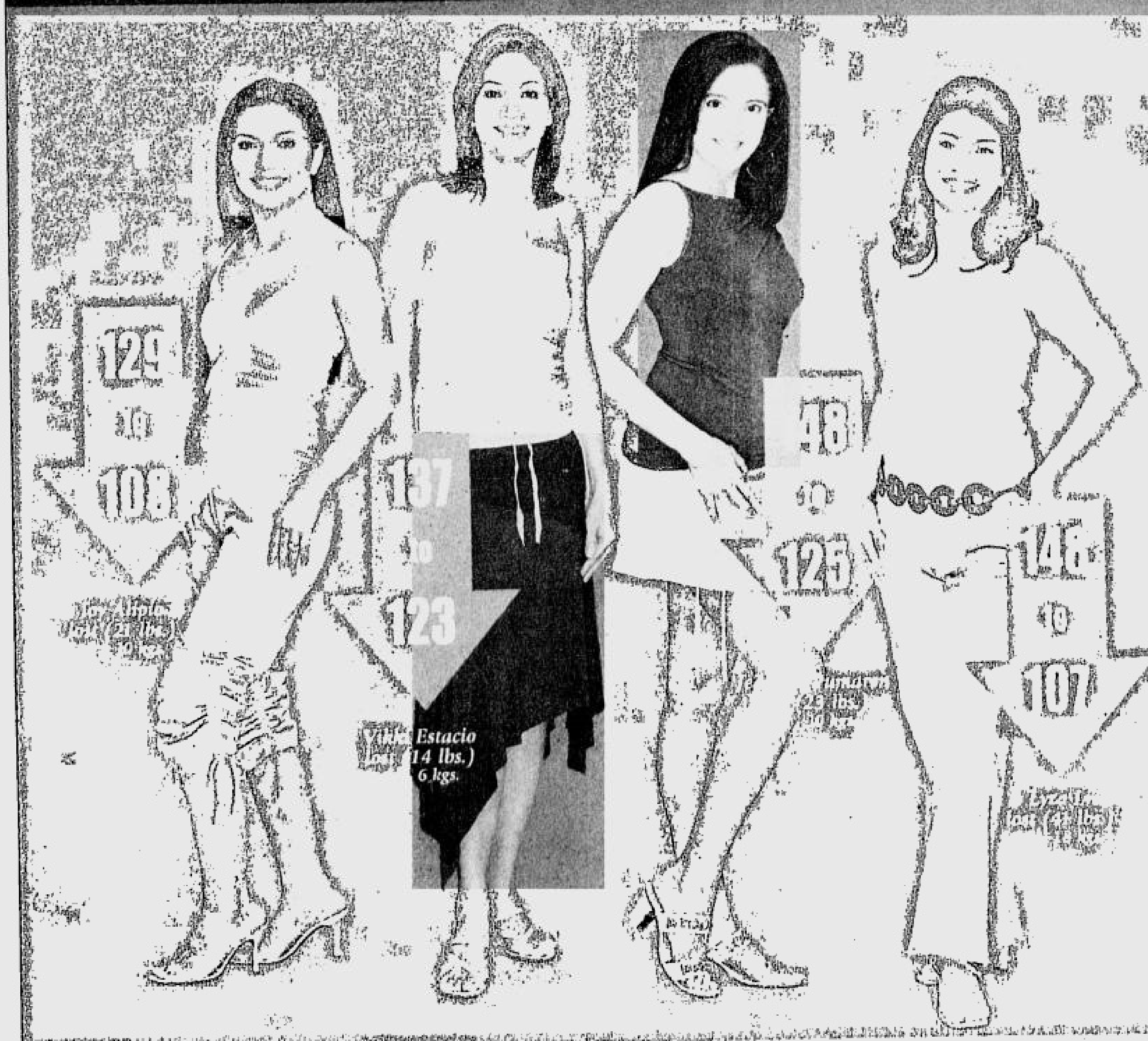

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# Naia 3 'extortion' exposed

From page A1

Co. (Piatco) to build and operate Naia 3. Fraport and the Cheng family are the major investors in Piatco.

The President's nullification of the contracts on the ground that these contained onerous provisions forced Fraport to write down its 293-million euro (about P18 billion) investments in Piatco in March 2003. Fraport placed last month its total investments in Naia 3 at $425 million.

The ICSID recently granted the request of Fraport for arbitration to resolve its dispute with the Philippine government over the yet-to-be-opened terminal.

The nearly completed terminal would have four times the capacity of the existing main airport terminal and can handle 13 million passengers yearly.

In a letter to the ICSID, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday, Fraport said Gloria Tan-Climaco, former presidential adviser for strategic projects, had "strongly suggested" to Fraport to tap the services of Villaraza so that the Cheng family would leave the company.

The German airport operator also linked the President's chief legal counsel Avelino "Nonong" Cruz to government efforts to pressure Fraport into ousting the Cheng family from the Naia 3 project.

Climaco and Cruz have denied any wrongdoing in connection with the voiding of the Piatco contracts.

"In numerous oral communications, Climaco and presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz made clear to Fraport that the government would not permit the Naia Terminal 3 Investment to be successful as long as the Cheng family played a central role," the firm said.

Fraport said it was Climaco who stated over and over again that the government had wanted Fraport to engage the services of the "politically well-connected Villaraza" of the Villaraza and Angangco law firm, which holds office at the LTA Building on Perea Street, Makati. Cruz is a former partner of the firm.

"For example, Climaco stressed during discussions with Fraport in early 2003 that Villaraza should be engaged to facilitate the ouster of the Cheng family from the Naia Terminal 3 Investment. Villaraza told Fraport that he would be able to achieve this result upon payment for unspecified purposes of several millions of US dollar," it said.

## Fund raiser

It indicated that Villaraza was raising money for the President when he demanded millions of dollars from the company. "Villaraza reportedly is himself a presidential confidant and top fundraiser," Fraport said.

Frank Chavez, counsel for Piatco, described Villaraza, Climaco and Cruz as "an evil but highly profitable *ménage à trois*."

Chavez said the President herself may have known of the money demanded by Villaraza.

"Considering the closeness of this three people, it is highly improbable for the President not to be aware of this extortion," he said.

When Fraport first met with Villaraza, the lawyer said he could work for the company "only 'in the background' through other law firms without ties to him," the German firm said.

It said Villaraza had wanted payments to him coursed through banks overseas. "Villaraza also stated that his requirements for representing Fraport likely would include the payments to be made offshore into a bank account not in his law firm's name."

When it informed Climaco that it was not willing to work with Villaraza under such terms, she made it clear to the company that the successful commercial operation of Naia 3 depended on its tapping the services of Villaraza, Fraport said.

Climaco told Fraport that the government would reward it should it succeed in ousting the Cheng family from Piatco. Once the Chengs were ousted, the government, through a corporation, would serve as a "warehouse" for the family's Piatco interests until other Filipino groups could be brought in, the German firm said.

It said it was warned by Climaco that the company might find itself facing anti-dummy law problems if the Chengs were not ousted.

Fraport said the government also demanded changes to the concession agreement, which would have impeded the drawdown of long-term financing that it had arranged.

The German firm said the government went to the Supreme Court to have the concession agreement nullified when it did not get what it wanted. On May 5, the Supreme Court declared null and void Piatco's concession agreement and all its three supplemental agreements for Naia 3.

The Naia 3 project was approved during the Ramos administration and the contracts awarded to Piatco were modified during the Estrada administration.

## Punishment

"The nullification of the concession agreement and the refusal to compensate Fraport, are in effect, Fraport's ultimate punishment for failing to abide by the government's unlawful demands," it said.

Moises Tolentino Jr., Piatco vice president for public affairs, said yesterday the consortium would seek just compensation if the government insisted on taking over the terminal.

Piatco and Fraport are seeking between $427 million and $565 million in compensation from the Philippine government for the investments, expenses and foregone income they incurred in building Naia 3, Piatco's Jose Ch. Alvarez said.

He said that upon reimbursement, Fraport would withdraw the arbitration case it filed with the World Bank.

The government oversight committee on Naia 3 led by Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, however, has offered to pay no more than $350 million—$100 million in down payment and the balance to be paid after the valuation by two international appraisers.

But Alvarez said the government offer was virtually plucked out of "thin air" as it was based only on the concession agreement for the contract which specified that the passenger terminal cost no less than $350 million.

*With a report from Abigail L. Ho*

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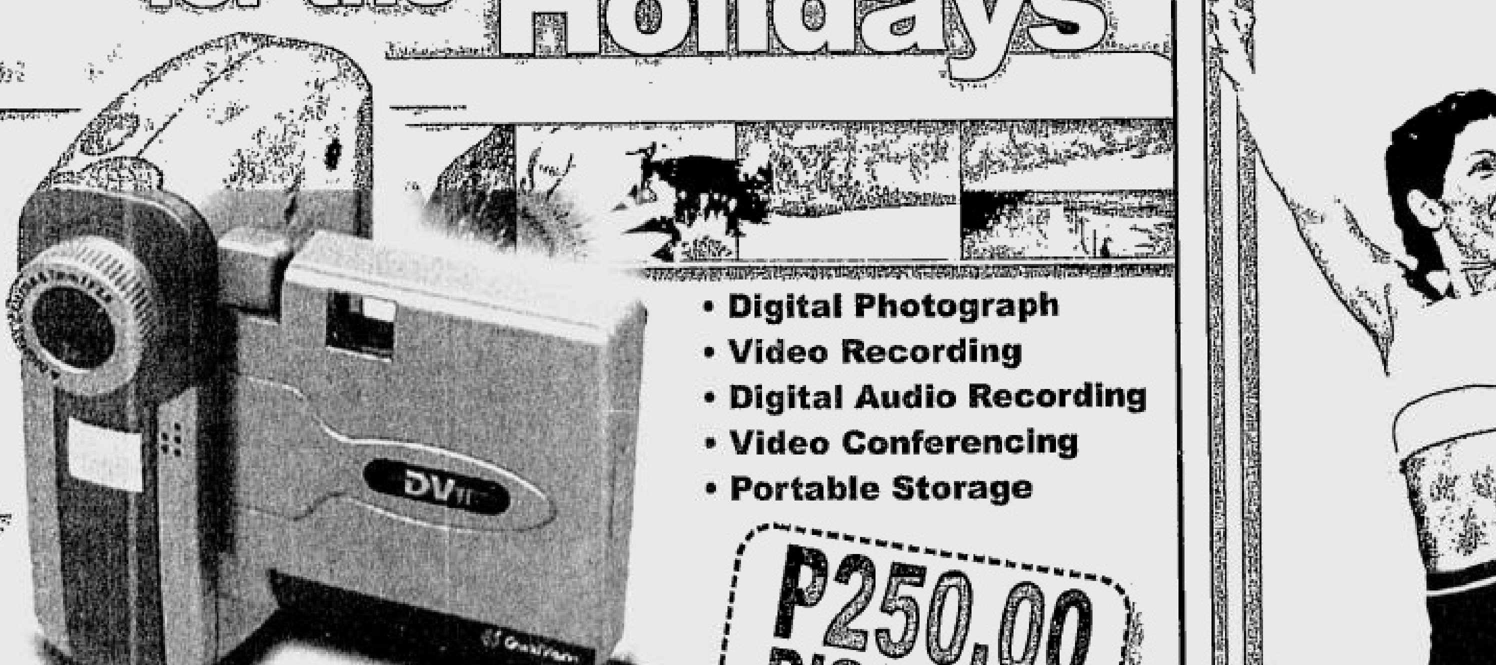

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## SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE LEADERS

# Church won't endorse any poll bet, says Rosales

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

MANILA'S archbishop-elect yesterday vowed not to endorse any political candidate in the 2004 elections, but said the Catholic Church would not be quiet on political issues after the retirement of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

In his first press briefing, Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, chosen by the Vatican last month to succeed the outspoken Sin, said the public could still expect to hear from the Church, especially on concerns about human rights.

Speaking from the archbishop's residence in Lipa City, Batangas, Rosales noted that under Sin's leadership, the Church found itself in the thick of political issues, not because it was "meddling" but because it had to respond to the needs of the times.

"Politics, as it is exercised by Filipinos, is the most divisive factor in the community," he said, pointing out that politicians would "ride on anything . . . capitalize, take advantage of encounters . . . (and have) immense personal ambition, greed and power."

Because "rights belong to the people," he said, the Church would always make sure that politics was "exercised within the limits of moral order and for the common good."

For next year's polls, Rosales said he would urge the faithful to vote for God-fearing and compassionate candidates who have good track records in public service, and whose vision for the country resonates with the people's aspirations.

"We are looking for alternatives," he said, specifying that he referred to both leaders and systems. "The Church will (seek) these without campaigning. The people should decide."

Rosales will be formally installed as Manila archbishop on Nov. 21. He is expected to stay at the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros.

**ARCHBISHOP** Gaudencio Rosales shows a caricature of himself done by the late artist Nonoy Marcelo during a press conference in Lipa City. ERIK ARAZAS

# Cultural history up at nat'l meet

THE PHILIPPINE National Historical Society will hold its 24th national conference on national and local history on Nov. 20-22 at the Surigaonon Heritage Center (SHC) in Surigao City.

The PNHS, founded in 1941, held its first such conference in 1978 at Xavier University. Since then, it has held annual conferences in various locations nationwide.

The conference theme this year is "Philippine Cultural History."

The speakers include: Patricia O. Afable (Smithsonian Institution, USA); Luz S. Almeda and Winston Dean S. Almeda, SHC; Joyce Arriola and Reynaldo T. Candido, University of Santo Tomas; Calbi A. Asain, Mindanao State University-Sulu; Anavic M. Bagamaspad, Ma. Nela B. Florendo and Delfin Tolentino Jr., University of the Philippines Baguio; Rolando O. Borrinaga, UP School of Health Sciences, Palo, Leyte; Jose S. Buenconsejo, Marilyn R. Canta, Gil G. Gotiangco, Jr., UP Diliman; Erlinda M. Burton, Xavier University; Antonio J. Montalvan, II, Cagayan de Oro; Earl Jude L. Cleope, Silliman University; Francis A. Gealogo and Stephen Henry S. Totanes, Ateneo de Manila University; Antonio C. Hila, De La Salle University; Regalado Trota Jose, National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Committee on Monuments and Sites; Rolando Talampas, UP Manila; and Macario D. Tiu, ADMU.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and convenor, through Rosemarie Viola at (02) 921-4575 or (02) 926-1347, or e-mail nitachurchill@hotmail.com; or regional convenor Fernando A. Almeda, Jr. at (086) 826-1797, (086) 826-3517, or (086) 826-2016, or e-mail ppasur@surigao.philcom.com.ph.

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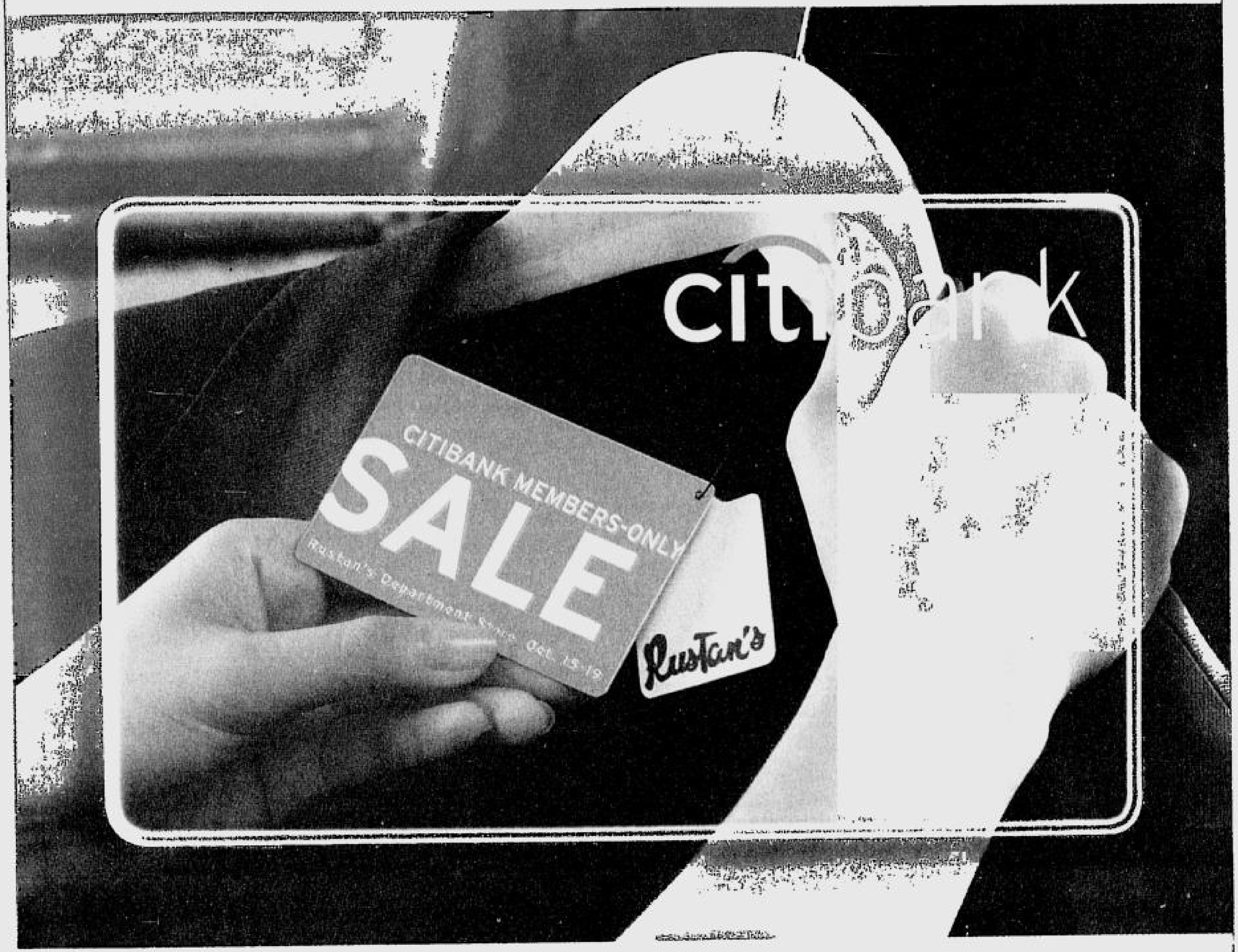

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# GMA flies to Kuala Lumpur today to attend OIC meet

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leaves for Kuala Lumpur today to attend a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference but will be back on Thursday, well before the arrival of United States President George W. Bush on Saturday.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona has been designated government caretaker during the President's overnight trip, said the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Malacañang said Ms Macapagal would be making history as she is the first Philippine president to be invited to the summit of the 34-year-old OIC that groups the world's Muslim-led countries.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it was a great honor for the President and the Philippines to receive such an invitation from the influential group.

He said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the incoming OIC chair, had invited Ms Macapagal to the meeting "in recognition of the Philippine government's genuine efforts to solve" the protracted problem in Mindanao.

Ermita said the President's attendance would be a big boost to the peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front which are set to resume in the Malaysian capital this month.

He said the OIC had also been very supportive of the mainstream Muslim rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, from the early 1970s until a peace agreement was signed in 1996. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

# MILF welcomes new negotiator

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday welcomed the appointment of Secretary Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff, as the government's new chief negotiator in the upcoming peace talks with the secessionist group.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief of the MILF's information committee, said it did not matter whoever sat as the government panel chair for as long as the government remained committed to the political solution of the decades-old problem in Mindanao.

The formal peace talks are set to resume later this month in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the auspices of Organization of Islamic Conference.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said the government peace panel had officially informed MILF chair Ebrahim Murad about Afable's appointment. Afable replaced retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita, who was appointed defense secretary last month.

The MILF has designated Adulazis Mimbantas, vice chair for internal affairs, as its chief negotiator.

Mimbantas will replace Murad, who will concentrate on his new post as MILF chair. Murad, the group's former military chief, took over the leadership after the death of Salamat Hashim in July. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao*

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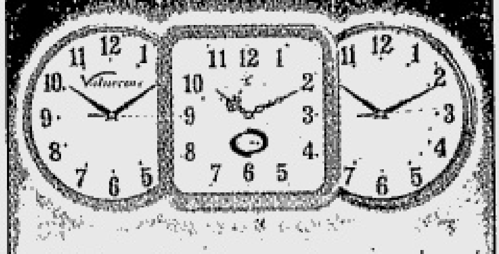

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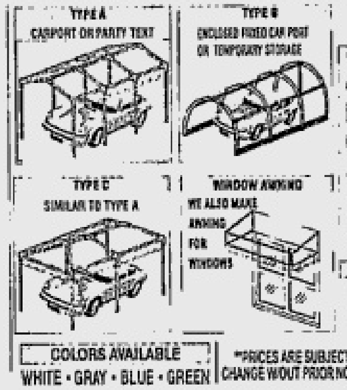
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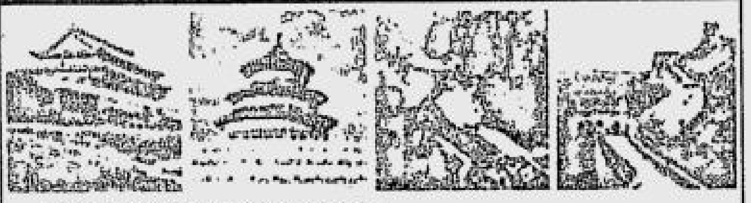

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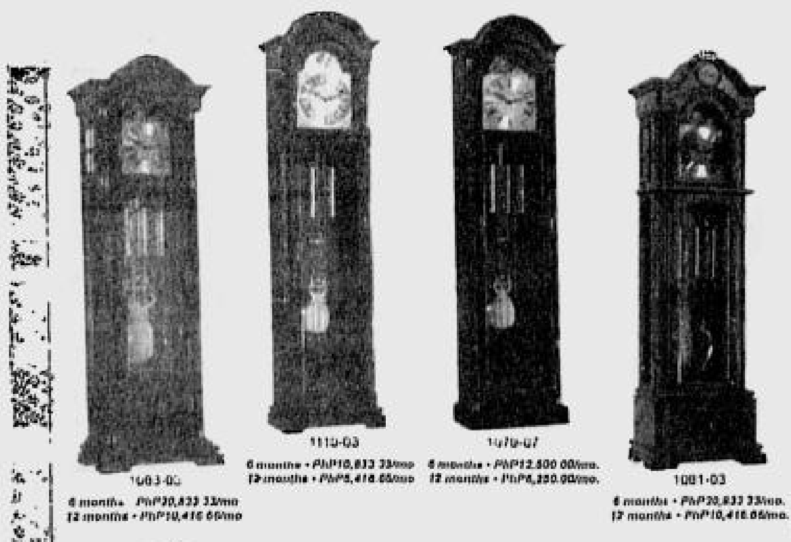

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Parang Mayor Vivencio Bataga said the extortionists were asking P1 million in “revolutionary taxes” for 10 years and a P50,000 monthly protection money.

Bataga said the group carries out its extortion racket by sending letters to would-be trader victims signed by a man claiming to be Abu Sayyaf operational officer Abu Siad. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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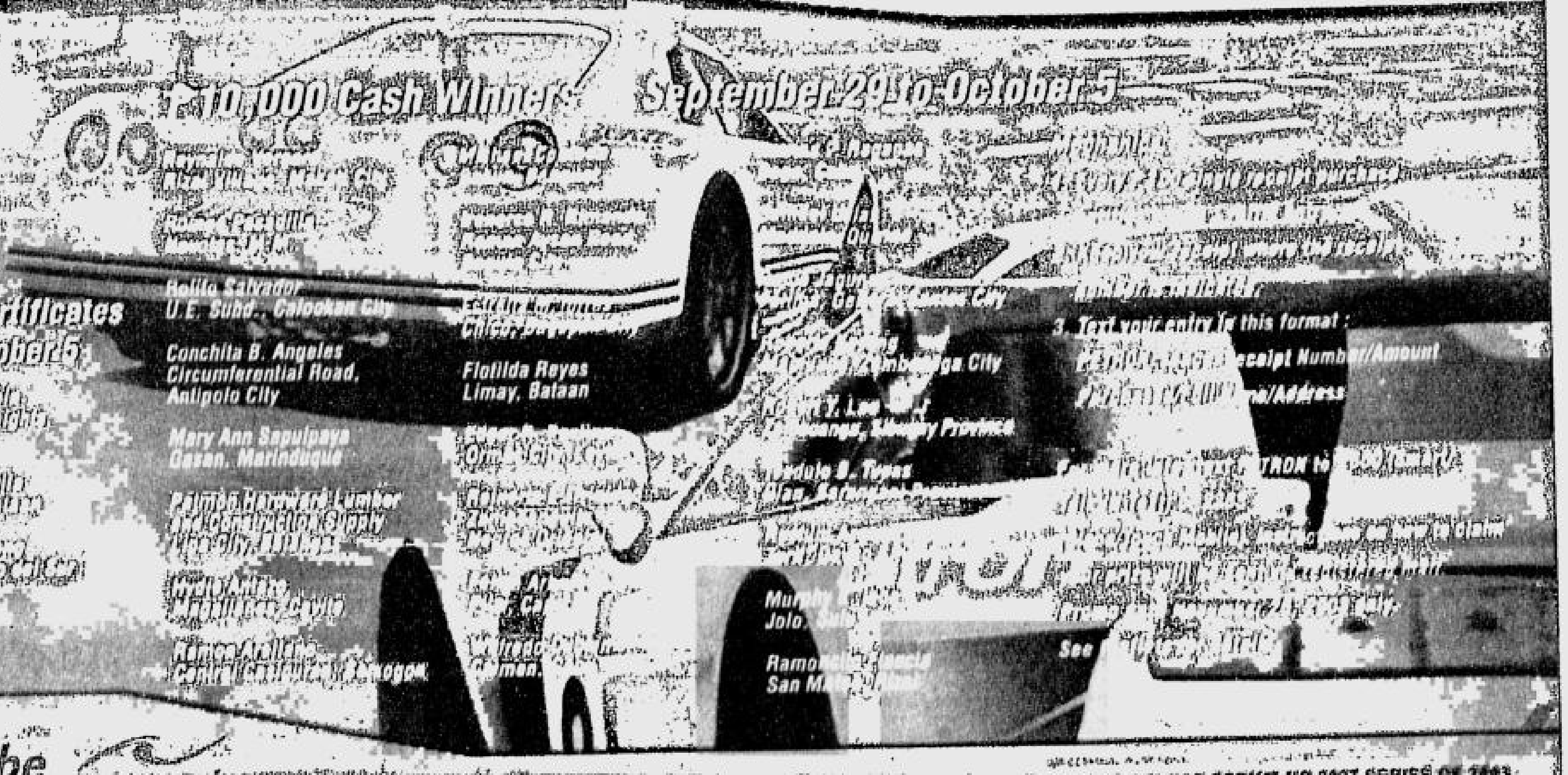
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# Metropolis spruced up for Bush visit on Oct. 18

From page A1

*hahanda ka, sa presidente ng Amerika pa kaya* (If you make preparations for a friend, how much more for the President of America)," he said.

The MMDA beautification project includes the putting up of plants on center islands on main thoroughfares like Roxas Boulevard (for which P4 million has been allotted), masonry and road repairs (P500,000), painting of roads (between P300,000 and P400,000) and for signs on streets and historical landmarks (P2.9 million).

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the agency originally asked the Department of Budget and Management for a P50-million budget to spruce up the metropolis but was given only P10 million on Oct. 7.

Crewmen are now giving stretches of road a fresh coat of white paint, trimming weeds and sweeping lanes clean—particularly the routes expected to be used if not by Bush's convoy, then by other dignitaries attending functions in Malacañang and the House of Representatives.

The roads include Edsa, Roxas Boulevard, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon Avenue and those leading to Malacañang, such as P. Burgos and Finance streets and Ayala Boulevard.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando inspects ongoing improvement of Roxas Boulevard near MIA Road in preparation for the arrival of US President George W. Bush. ROGER MARGALLO

## Concealing 'eyesores'

On a bridge on MIA Road in Parañaque City, Sonny Romero, project manager of Kitar Construction, was rushing the installation of iron frames ordered by the airport management on Monday.

The frames will hold 1.82-meter (6-foot) high billboards bearing greetings of a government agency. Incidentally, the structures will also be concealing a squatters' colony lining the river banks.

Nacianceno refused to call it a beautification project. He preferred to call it putting things in order.

Romero was more candid. "I guess this is for covering eyesores," he said, as he pointed to the squatters' area.

He said his construction firm had also been asked to put similar steel frames on two more bridges leading to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport—one on Airport Road and another on Tramo Street.

## Bulldozing shanties

At the Batasan Road leading to the House of Representatives building in Quezon City, Charlie Aresga was not sure where his family would sleep after government workers bulldozed his shanty on Monday. The clearing operations affected 200 other squatter families in the area.

Aresga said each evicted family was given P10,000 and was told by barangay officials that Bush was coming. They will be relocated to Camarin, Caloocan City and Montalban, Rizal.

Although the government is clearing—or concealing—squatters' colonies, it will not be intensifying its work of rounding up beggars in the streets.

Nacianceno said the MMDA had always been rounding up beggars anyway.

During the last five to six months, he said, the MMDA, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, rounded up 20 to 50 vagrants.

## For future VIPs, too

Both Fernando and Nacianceno maintained that the beautification frenzy was not only meant for the Bush visit but for Metro Manila's hosting of future VIP guests.

"(The Bush visit) is a good rallying point, but the long-term benefits will be there for everyone," Nacianceno explained.

He said the presidents of Ukraine and Kazakhstan were set to visit the Philippines before the end of the year.

The urban makeover will also serve as a welcome treat for Filipino *balikbayan* coming home for Christmas, Nacianceno said.

"This is a good opportunity to act quickly and correct things; we're going after permanency here," said Fernando.

## Bush to take a chopper?

There is a catch to the makeover of the metropolis: Bush might not even get to see the cleaner and more orderly streets because he might be taking a helicopter to move around Metro Manila.

This was what particularly irked Aresga, the suddenly homeless man from Batasan Road.

"We're not even sure if Bush will pass through here, yet all of us were told to go," Aresga said.

# Watch your mouth, solon advises Bush

From page A1

Oct. 18: Don't repeat the "boo-boo made by the Senior," referring to the incumbent's father, then Vice President George H. Bush, who came to Manila in 1982.

Mitra recalled that at a dinner in Malacañang, the elder Bush raised his glass to his host, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and said: "We love your adherence to democratic principles and processes."

"That quote was widely ridiculed abroad. Newspaper cartoonists had a field day lampooning it," said Mitra, who also noted that the Bush toast drew a firestorm of protest both locally and abroad as the Philippines was then in the Marcoses' iron grip.

The neophyte lawmaker said he knew this first-hand because his late father, Ramon Mitra, was among those picked up and jailed at the onset of martial law.

He recalled that because of Bush Sr.'s praise of the dictatorship 21 years ago, the US government was alienated from the Filipino people.

"It was a quote that cut deep," he said.

Mitra, however, said he was not advising the US president on the phrasing of the obligatory toast.

"He has a phalanx of writers to do that for him," the lawmaker said. "What I am just giving is a friendly reminder, drawn from the pages of our history."

## Secret deal

Mitra said Bush's writers could draw from the long history of friendship between the two countries.

"Praise our culture, our people, especially our soldiers who fought alongside members of America's greatest generation in the jungles of Bataan, in the fortress that was Corregidor," he said.

But "stay clear of politics," he added. "It's a minefield out there."

At the House, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of entering into a secret deal with Bush in an effort to get US support for her candidacy in 2004.

This supposed deal-making has resulted in "haphazard and blind commitment" to the US global war on terror, the party-list representative said.

Ocampo said the secret tradeoff between the two presidents was made during Ms Macapagal's visit to Washington in May. He was referring to the May 13 signing of the Mutual Non-Surrender Agreement, which was in the form of an executive agreement instead of a treaty.

In this agreement, the Philippine government granted American civilian officials, employees and soldiers immunity from prosecution before the International Criminal Court of charges of war crimes like genocide, or crimes against humanity.

"That grant of immunity from prosecution is apparently in exchange for US military aid and the Philippines' subsequent designation by the United States as a major non-Nato ally," Ocampo said.

He said what raised more doubts was Malacañang's continued refusal to transmit the agreement to the Philippine Senate for ratification, as required by the Constitution.

## What Bush wants

"US President Bush will not be addressing Congress on Saturday because he has to ask something from [Philippine] lawmakers," Ocampo said.

He said much of what Bush wanted from the Philippine government had already been approved by Malacañang, such as the approval of crucial RP-US military agreements.

Ocampo said he expected Ms Macapagal and her allies to use the Bush visit as a veritable endorsement of her candidacy in 2004.

But at the Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Sen. Loren Legarda said she did not think Bush would endorse Ms Macapagal as a presidential candidate.

Legarda said she got it from a former US ambassador that there would be no endorsement from Bush.

"I think he will not endorse her, and should not," the senator said. "Any endorsement would be interference in our politics."

## Concessions

Rep. Crispin Beltran, also of Bayan Muna, said Bush was coming to the Philippines for more economic concessions in view of the recent collapse of the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun.

Beltran said that as announced by no less than Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, US firms had submitted bids for exploration rights to 46 prospective gas and oil areas being offered by the Philippines.

These firms are Amerada Hess Corp., Occidental Petroleum Corp., Marathon Oil Corp. and Hunt Oil Corp.

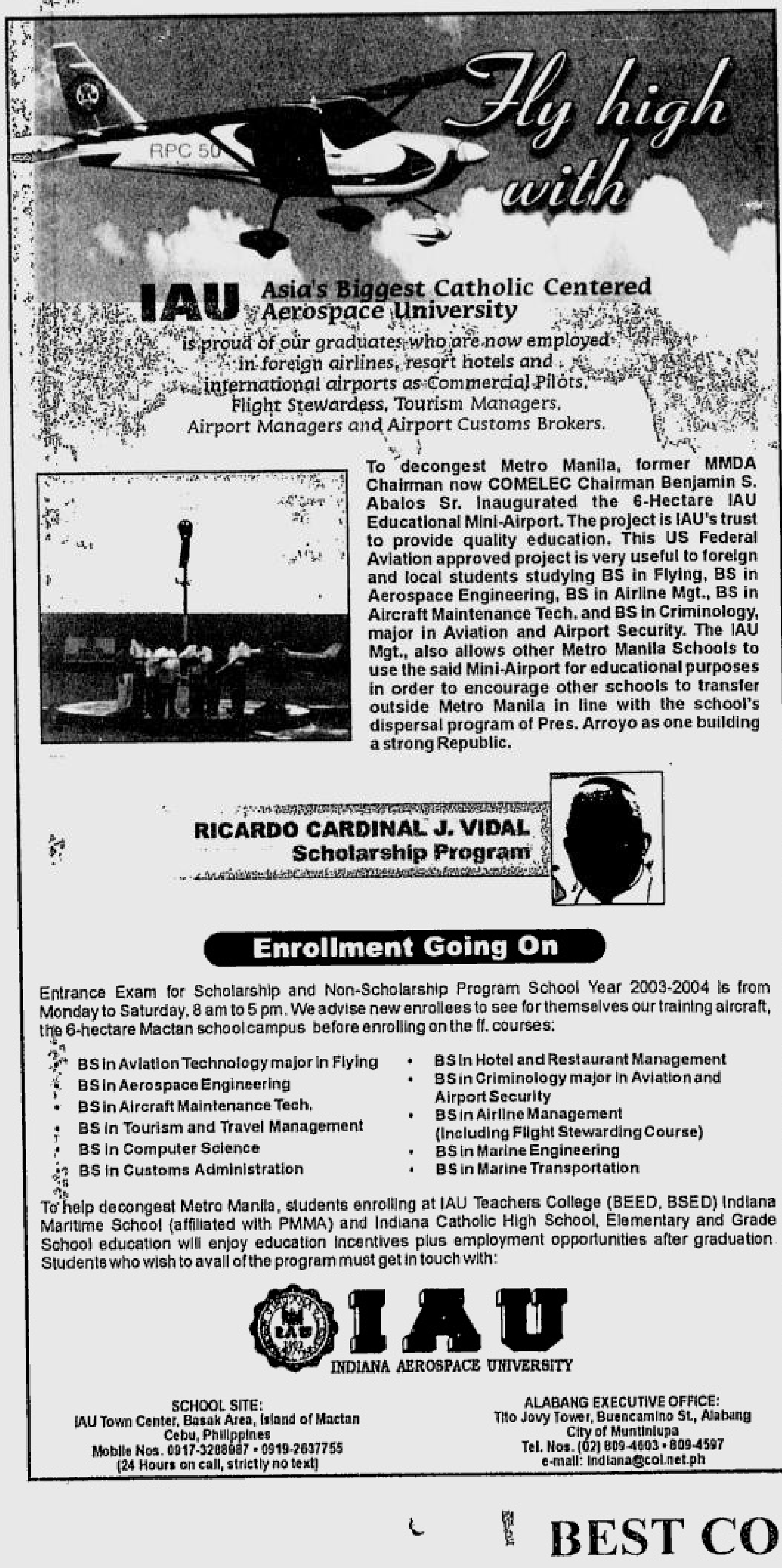
Beltran pointed out that the Philippine government had been trying to lure companies to bid for shallow-to-deep water sites close to the existing Malampaya natural gas field, as well as other oil-producing fields near Palawan, in the Sulu Sea and in the Reed Bank.

He said contractors could recover exploration and development costs from 70 percent of gross proceeds, and would get a maximum 40 percent of the net proceeds, with 60 percent going to the government. The contractors are exempt from paying national taxes.

The Philippines produces up to 260 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, but its crude output is only 500-600 barrels per day. The $4.5-billion Malampaya project, the country's biggest investment, has reserves of 2.7 trillion cubic feet of gas and 85 million barrels of condensate.

"The US government is always on the lookout in the Philippines to secure for itself continued access to major raw materials, trade and vital security, and commercial routes," Beltran said, adding:

"Not only is [Bush] expected to reiterate military aid pledges, he is [also] expected to dangle before the government investment packages particularly in Mindanao, where the US is pressuring the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to capitulate in exchange for development assistance." *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*



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# Terror, trade top agenda of Apec forum in Thailand

**SINGAPORE—They wore brown leather bomber jackets in Vancouver, blue and red silk brocade tunics in Shanghai and batik shirts in Bogor, Indonesia.**

Best known for the eye-catching local outfits donned by its leaders for their annual family photo, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is sure to keep up the tradition with something suitably silken next week in Bangkok.

But Apec, whose leaders gather in the Thai capital on Oct. 19-21, also hopes to uphold a more substantial tradition by helping to put troubled world trade talks back on track.

Along with the war against terror, trade will top the agenda for US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao and other leaders of the 21-member forum, which was set up in 1989 to promote the free flow of goods and investment among the group's 2.5 billion people.

The way some trade experts see it, the common front that the United States and Asia presented at the inaugural Apec summit in Seattle in 1993 prodded Europe to make concessions on farm subsidies that revived the Uruguay Round of market-opening talks.

By analogy, a ringing declaration in Bangkok might repair some of the damage done to the World Trade Organization's follow-on Doha Round by the acrimonious collapse last month of talks in Cancun, Mexico.

"The failure of Cancun has made it much more important for us to push Apec forward," said Singapore trade minister George Yeo.

Describing protectionism as a cause of World War II, Yeo said the breakdown in Cancun posed potentially grave dangers for the global economy. "We should strain every fiber in our body to avert such an eventuality. Apec can help us over this," he said.

Yet Yeo is in a better position than most to judge how difficult it will be for Apec to make a difference.

As mediator of the farm chapter of the Cancun talks, he said the political climate for negotiations was sour from the start because of deep divisions over the US-led war against Iraq.

"The dynamics have changed and you can't go back to the status quo ante. If we started at zero in Cancun, we are now in negative territory," Yeo told a World Economic Forum meeting in Singapore.

The Cancun talks collapsed due to rich-poor rifts over a host of issues, notably the $300 billion a year in farm aid spent by developed states, and, judging by the mood at the WEF, the wounds are still too raw to be salved by soothing words from Apec.

"The Philippines has already paid the price of unbridled free trade. It is the turn of the few who are rich to make sacrifices," said Philippine Agriculture Secretary Luiz Lorenzo. *Reuters*

# Thai masseurs pamper media

BANGKOK—Chasing down 21 world leaders will be a daunting if not painful task for the thousands of reporters at next week's Apec summit but Thailand is rubbing them up the right way with free foot massages among other perks.

Ten government-approved masseurs have been dispatched to offer the ancient therapy to the 3,700 journalists expected at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation pow-wow.

"All of you are working so hard, all day and all night. You need to relax," Thai foot masseur Chavalit Janthavong said at the Apec media center.

Hypertension, carpal tunnel syndrome and aching feet are often seen simply as the collateral damage of the media business, but Chavalit says it's time for hacks to get wise.

"We care about health, not just business," Chavalit said. "You should too."

Women reporters in high heels, he says, are especially vulnerable to fatigue and foot problems. "That's the worst—very dangerous," he said, eyeing a passing reporter's 8-cm sandals.

Several journalists have already taken his advice to heart, stretching out in plush lounge chairs and letting masseurs soak their sore feet in a Thai herbal remedy before administering a professional rub-down.

Usually resigned to being treated like cattle, the journalists are appreciating the touch of luxury.

Other media mollycoddling abounds at the press center that is crowded with photo labs, souvenir shops, a free food court and a stall where reporters can sample the Thai wines that will be served to Apec leaders.

Thailand is also flaunting its national treasures by tempting journalists and their spouses with elephant rides and bamboo rafting, and guided tours of Bangkok's Grand Palace and the ancient capital Ayutthaya, where Southeast Asia's top terror suspect Hambali was arrested in August. *AFP*

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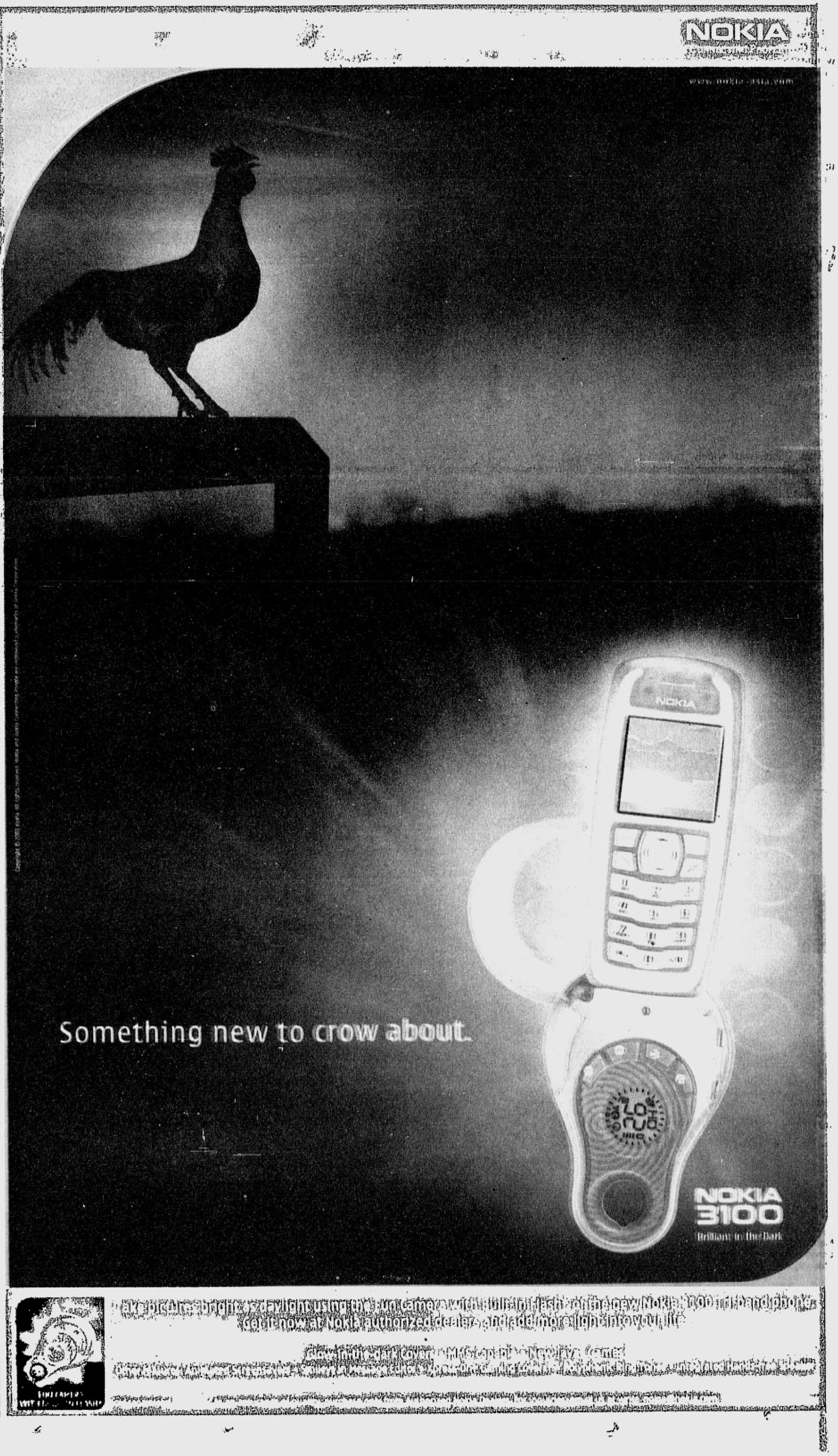

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## MESSAGES

It is with great pride that I welcome you in this significant event as we commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Local Government Code, by recognizing the outstanding local chief executives all over the country in this year's Local Government Leadership Awards.

Local government units are the effective partners of the national government in attaining the country's development. Responsive and accountable local governance provides a stable foundation towards a better future. It is therefore, fitting to recognize the worthy contribution of the local chief executives in steering our local government units towards the road to progress. Our provincial governors, city and municipal mayors have sacrificed a lot in giving their best service to their constituents, and by giving true meaning to local autonomy through their competent local leadership. Their effective administration made it possible to transcend barriers in order to provide quality life for their constituents. Their paragon management empowered their local government units to create their own sources of income and enhance their right to self-determination. The indefatigable sacrifices of our outstanding local chief executives clearly painted what their future will be in terms of their goals and aspirations for the people and the community.

As we honor today the Most Outstanding Governor, Most Outstanding City Mayor and Most Outstanding Municipal Mayor and other outstanding local chief executives of our country, I encourage them to continue their exemplary work in making local autonomy a success. Their vital contribution to local governance is the bedrock of democratic ideals of our nation. May God continue to guide us in this mission for our beloved country and people.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

***Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.***
*Chairperson*

Greetings!

I convey my warmest felicitations to the representatives of the partner institutions undertaking the recognition of outstanding contribution of local officials by the conferment of the 2003 Local Government Leadership Award (LGLA) which will be held on Oct 13, 2003 at the Senate of the Philippines. Also, I extend welcome to the winners, and the other finalists, officials and guests witnessing the awarding ceremonies.

Indeed, conferring awards to outstanding local government officials brings to the fore the importance of efficient and competent local governance in the country's bid for stability and progress. It is for this reason that I congratulate Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. for spearheading this event in collaboration with the academe and other government agencies. I know that this important event holds much promise in discovering the continued exemplary leadership and potentials of local government officials all over the country whose efforts to make local autonomy more meaningful will indeed usher this nation to a brighter future. At the same time this is the perfect occasion to pay tribute to the Local Government Code (LGC) as it celebrates its 12th anniversary. It is with pride that I say that the LGC was born in this chamber twelve years ago, thanks to the relentless advocacy of Senator Pimentel, Jr.

I wish that all the winners of the Local Government Leadership Awards 2003 will continue to promote governance to attain the visions of their communities and the country. May they and the other finalists and officials remain inspired and committed to their dutiful service to their constituents. Hopefully, they become the engine of growth and progress in the local government level.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

***Senator Franklin M. Drilon***
*Co-chairperson*

I extend my warmest congratulations to this year's awardees of the Local Government Leadership Awards Program even as I commend them for their innovativeness and creativity in steering and managing their respective LGUs to greater heights of achievement.

As we give honor to your exemplary performance in the field of local governance, I cannot but admire you for your efforts in transforming your communities into bustling and vibrant communities. Indeed, this awards is timely as we celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the Local Government Code of 1991, the landmark legislation that signaled a new dimension in the government's effort to make the LGUs self-reliant.

I congratulate the winners for achieving so much. I salute them as the new breed of leaders with vision that made a difference in the lives of our people. May you serve as models of excellence in local governance as we in the Department of the Interiorn and Local Government continue to look for ways and means of building and strengthening your capabilities to be more effective managers of your respective local units.

Let me also commend our partners in the academe as well as the non-government organizations for their combined efforts of institutionalizing this Leadership Awards Program and making this an effective in promoting good governance at the local level.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

***Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr.***
*Department of the Interior and Local Government*
*Co-Chairperson*

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# Bin Laden son rises to al-Qaida top ranks

WASHINGTON—One of Osama bin Laden's eldest sons has risen to the top ranks of al-Qaida and is helping run the terror network from Iran, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

Saad bin Laden, believed to be 24, and other top al-Qaida operatives are operating inside Iran near Afghan border protected by an elite Iranian unit linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to the Post.

The newspaper cites US, European and Arab officials as its sources.

Saad has been linked to both the May 12 suicide bombing in Riyadh that killed 35, and the May 16 bombings that killed 45 people in Casablanca, Morocco, according to the Post.

Osama bin Laden is believed to have more than 24 children with five wives. Saad is one of his eldest sons with his first wife, Syrian Najwa Ghanem.

Saad—who is fluent in English and is computer-literate—was in Afghanistan in the mid-1980s when his father Osama first formed al-Qaida, the Post reported.

Intelligence officials are split however on how high Saad has risen in the al-Qaida leadership, though most agree that his influence has increased over the past six months.

The al-Qaida members—as many as 400, Saudi officials told the Post—are restricted to their bases close to the Afghan border. *AFP*

# OIC urges central UN role in Iraq

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—Islamic nations overcame previous divisions and drafted a summit statement Tuesday welcoming Iraq's US-picked government to the world's largest organization of Muslim countries, but called for a UN-set timetable for returning power to Iraqis.

The draft statement, prepared by the countries' foreign ministers, also condemned the "mass-killings of Iraqis, Iranians and Kuwaitis" by the regime of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein in two wars and internal repression during his three decades in power.

Iraq's future since the US-led invasion toppled Saddam in April has consumed this week's meetings of the Organization of Islamic Conference, a grouping of 57 nations representing more that 1 billion Muslims.

Summit host Malaysia, a moderate, prosperous Southeast Asian country that strongly opposed the war, had objected to inviting the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to the summit and taking Iraq's seat without UN-conferred legitimacy. The powerful Arab bloc prevailed, however, saying the interim government was good enough for now.

The draft resolution, to be presented to Islamic leaders at their summit Thursday and Friday, views the Governing Council as a first step and expresses the desire of all OIC nations for the United Nations to take a greater role.

The organization "welcomes the establishment of an interim government and the appointment of Iraqi ministers as a forward step to the restoration of the government of Iraq," the draft says. It calls "for the UN to have a central role in Iraq, and for a UN resolution to set a schedule for the return of power to the Iraqi people."

It also condemns terror explosions in Baghdad that claimed scores of lives, and expresses support for Iraqi sovereignty over its territory and oil.

The Islamic leaders are also expected to adopt a strongly worded statement condemning Israel's recent air strike inside member country Syria, and its occupation of Palestinian territory.

But a statement on whether Muslim countries should send peacekeepers to Iraq—an issue that has dominated talks on the sidelines of the OIC meetings—appeared unlikely because of divisions among its member nations.

Turkey is the only Muslim country that has offered to send troops to Iraq, desperately sought by Washington to relieve the burden on its 130,000 personnel there. It reportedly proposed an OIC force during deliberations Monday.

Other Islamic countries—many of which were incensed at the US-led invasion and consider the occupation illegitimate—have been reluctant to send peacekeepers unless there is a UN mandate for the foreign forces. And Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council itself opposes accepting Turkish troops.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul dismissed the criticism and said Muslim nations should start talks with American and Iraqi authorities on stabilizing postwar Iraq, the Malaysian news agency Bernama reported.

"We share a 500-km border with Iraq," Gul told Bernama. "We are not 8,000 km away from it."

Gul said it was in Turkey's interest to see Iraq stabilized and intact, and predicted that Turkish forces would not face guerrilla attacks because they will not be part of the US-led occupation. *AP*

# Israelis raid Gaza anew

RAFAH REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops backed by attack helicopters and tanks searched for smuggling tunnels in this refugee camp on the Egyptian border Tuesday, the second large-scale raid here in less than a week.

Army bulldozers razed four homes, while troops took over several buildings and snipers set up positions on three rooftops, said resident Mohammed Zoarub, 35, and other witnesses. Six Palestinians were lightly hurt, hospital officials said.

At the start of the pre-dawn raid, helicopters fired toward the camp to clear the way for two columns of armored vehicles driving into Rafah, the witnesses said.

Also Wednesday, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres lent their qualified support to a symbolic peace agreement concluded over the weekend by former negotiators, after two years of talks.

"Our policy is not to undercut any attempt to reach the peace of the brave," Arafat said, but noted that the 50-page document had no official standing. He did not comment on the specifics of the deal.

Peres said the detailed document could serve as a basis for future talks.

The agreement, complete with a map of a future Palestine, gives the Palestinians a state in virtually all of the lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and divides Jerusalem, but keeps most war refugees out of Israel.

It was put together by prominent Israelis and Palestinians, including former Cabinet ministers and legislators, and is to be signed next month.

Israeli government officials derided the deal as irresponsible.

At the West Bank, a Palestinian man was shot and killed by Israeli forces near the settlement of Negahot, the military said. Israel Radio said the man was unarmed. Last month, a Palestinian gunman broke into the settlement, killing an Israeli man and baby girl. *AP*

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## WorldBriefs

### Pakistan tests 3rd missile

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan launched a medium-range missile capable of hitting many targets inside archrival India early Tuesday, its third—and last—in a series of planned tests which began earlier this month. Longer-range missiles, however, will be tested in the future, the Army said in a statement. The medium-range, surface-to-surface Hatf-4, also known as the Shaheen-1, was successfully test fired from an undisclosed location, it said. The missile has a range of 700 km. *AP*

### Tanks enter La Paz

LA PAZ—Tanks and armored vehicles took up positions in La Paz early Tuesday after thousands took to the streets demanding the resignation of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who postponed under pressure plans to build a controversial pipeline to export natural gas through Chile. At least 58 people have been killed and 200 injured in nearly four weeks of protests against the gas export plans, according to human rights groups. *AFP*

### Serbs, Albanians in talks

VIENNA, Austria—Rival Serbian and ethnic Albanian leaders met Tuesday in their first face-to-face talks on Kosovo since the 1999 war that led to Nato's intervention in the ethnically troubled province. The largely symbolic launch of the UN-sponsored talks avoided the contentious issue of Kosovo's future: independence, as demanded by the ethnic Albanians, or status as part Serbia, as called for by the Belgrade leadership. *AP*

### Peace prize belittled

TEHRAN—Iran's President Mohammad Khatami Tuesday warned Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi to "pay attention" to Iranian interests, calling her award "not very important." An irritated Khatami demanded, "Must I always send a message for everything," when asked why he had not responded to the award for Ebadi, a human rights lawyer, four days after it was made. "The Nobel Peace Prize is not very important, the ones that count are the scientific and literary prizes," said the embattled president, hours before Ebadi is due to return to Iran late Tuesday. *AFP*

### Nato gets green light

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council has given a green light to Nato to expand its peacekeeping mission throughout Afghanistan to help improve security, a move long sought by the Afghan government. But so far only Germany has offered more troops. The 15-member council unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by Germany late Monday to allow the 5,500-strong international force to operate beyond the capital, Kabul, after Nato's secretary general, Lord Robertson, sent a letter requesting the expanded mission. *AP*

### Display of maids banned

SINGAPORE—The Ministry of Manpower has ordered maid employment agencies to stop displaying their foreign workers behind storefront windows for prospective employers, saying it gives Singapore a bad reputation. Putting the workers on display as well as displaying their biographical data and photos behind glass panels "are both considered unacceptable practices," according to a circular distributed to maid agencies last month and released to the media on Tuesday. The ministry said it seem that the women were being displayed "much like other commodities." *AP*

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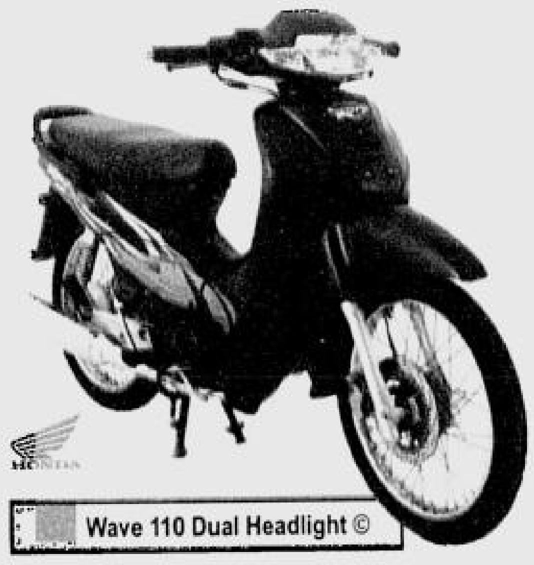
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# US elite scoffs at Arnold election

WASHINGTON—The populist election of movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger as governor of California drew traditional expressions of scorn from the intellectual elite on the opposite coast of the United States.

"New York, after all, also has a governor who concealed the bad news about the state's impending deficit until he was safely reelected . . . But no one seems to be trying to replace George Pataki with Robert DeNiro," sneered the New York Times after California voters ousted Gov. Gray Davis and chose the action-movie hero to replace him.

"Definitely, people think this is a uniquely California spectacle that doesn't bear much relations to the more sober politics of the country," said Allan Lichtman, a history professor at American University in Washington.

California also is a long way off, both physically and culturally from the northeastern United States, traditional home of the American intellectual elite, which takes pride in the more "highbrow" eastern culture.

But Lichtman said the differences were narrowing.

"There's probably some bias there, not as much as there used to be, California's not that much different from the northeast when you look at it, nowhere near what it used to be," he said. *AFP*

# Nuns pour into Rome for Teresa

ROME—Running out of convent space, members of Mother Teresa's order have set up tents for hundreds of their fellow nuns pouring into Rome this week to join Pope John Paul II in a ceremony to move the woman who cared for the destitute closer to sainthood.

About 445 nuns from all corners of the world are expected join hundreds of thousands of Mother Teresa's admirers at a beautification ceremony Sunday in St. Peter's Square, Sister Nirmala, who succeeded Mother Teresa before her death in 1997 as the head of the Missionaries of Charity, said in an interview with Associated Press Television News Monday.

The nuns asked civil defense officials to lend them tents usually used to shelter those made homeless by such disasters as floods and earthquakes.

One bright yellow tent has been turned into a makeshift chapel because all the visiting nuns can't fit into the small, simple chapel on convent grounds.

Beatification is the last formal stage before possible sainthood, and John Paul speeded up things for Mother Teresa by waiving the mandatory five-year waiting period before formal evaluation of a candidate for beatification can begin. *AP*

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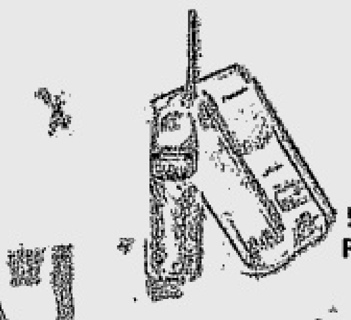

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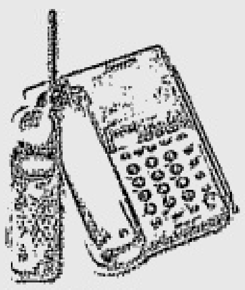

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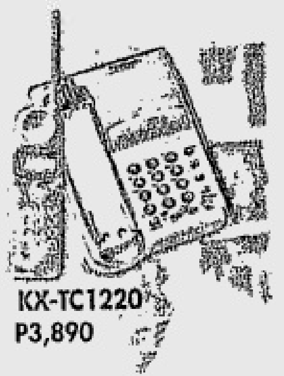

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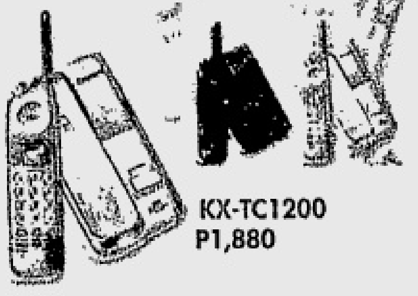

KX-TC1200
P1,880

| KEY FEATURES | KX-TC1200 | KX-TC1210 | KX-TC1220 | KX-TC1230 | KX-TCD400 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frequency Range | 46 MHz - 49MHz | 46 MHz - 49MHz | 46 MHz - 49MHz | 46 MHz - 49MHz | 1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz |
| Caller-ID Compatible* |  | ● | ● | ● |  |
| Caller-ID Memory* |  | 50 stations | 50 stations | 50 stations |  |
| Ringer Melody | 1 melody | 1 melody | 1 melody | 1 melody | 14 melodies |
| Key Lock |  |  |  |  | ● |
| Navigator Key |  | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Lighted Handset Keypad | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |
| Phone Directory | 11 stations | 30 stations | 30 stations | 30 stations | 20 stations |
| Handset Locator (Paging) | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |
| Intercom w/ 2-way paging |  |  | ● | ● |  |
| Speakerphone |  |  | ● | ● |  |
| Dual Keypads |  |  | ● | ● |  |
| Digital Answering System |  |  |  | ● |  |
| Recording Time |  |  |  | up to 15 mins. |  |

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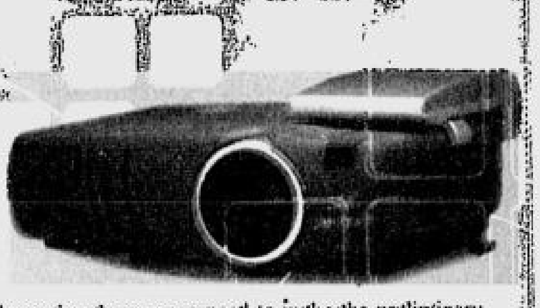
3M™ multimedia projectors : the edge in winning hearts and minds



***Traditional election campaigns have relied heavily on the force of the candidate's personality and his innate charisma. But now, more and more public speakers have discovered how visual presentation tools can enhance the way they convey messages and get results from their audiences.***

Electoral candidates and political parties worldwide have turned to cutting edge visual presentation tools to set their campaigns apart from competition. Candidates in the upcoming 2004 elections could likewise consider giving their campaigns a new dimension.

Now, 3M Philippines offers the right solutions to helping potential candidates market themselves better by using 3M visual equipment. After all, what are election campaigns but marketing campaigns that bring products to people.

The product – the candidate himself – must be able to be perceived better, remembered better and convince better. He, or his party – must have the edge in capturing the imagination of voters, whether they be in small towns in the provinces, key cities or heartland Metro Manila.

Campaign managers and communication consultants now know the facts: People retain only 10% of the information they read, and 20% of the information they hear. But when sight and sound are combined in imparting information to, or changing the attitudes of people, 50% of the material shared is retained. An UCLA study by Prof. Albert Mehrabian confirms that visual cues – specifically, body language and facial expression – account for 55% of the information that leaves an impact on people.

Imagine the advantage of a political candidate who stomps the barrios and brings with him a 3M™ multimedia projector to show to the crowd. Visuals create an impact that takes the presentation into another level. Faces and images are better remembered in visual presentations. Figures and charts get better recall - to the point where these are the items that stick in the minds and consciousness of viewers.

With the aid of 3M's powerful multimedia projector, for instance, a candidate can show a moving, emotional film that shows his dedication to a favorite cause. He can present a clean, crisp rundown of achievements and target tasks that people can read -- not just hear.

He can back up his claims with charts and graphs, or photographs. He can even include musical numbers of known entertainers who endorse him but need not be present during the campaign to charm and disarm (thereby sparing the candidate the additional expense).

In short, the candidate can better present himself, his accomplishments and his platform to the audience with the assistance of a 3M™ multimedia projector – a decided edge over a raw, basic speaker who has to compete with distractions in the external environment for the audience's attention.

Imagine these scenarios : A candidate makes a sweep of provinces and locales one after the other. While winding up his speech in one town or barangay, a 3M™ multimedia projector is working up the crowd in the next town. Video clips, campaign ads, or entertaining films are already being shown to prepare this next audience for the arrival of the candidate. By the time he gets there, there's no more need to make the preliminary introductions. The audience has been primed to listen to this speaker and is eager to experience "the real thing" - in flesh and blood. The voters may by then be already favorably predisposed to the candidate and his message, thanks to the drama of the presentation and the quality and effectiveness of the creative content of his AVP materials.

Election campaigns are pure theater. The more dramatic and attention-getting the presentation, the better. Thus, while making his speech, the candidate can present convincing data or evidence data that will support his claims or allegations, using the same 3M™ multimedia projector. He can use the audio-visual tool to his advantage to take the audience on a journey to the past, or into the future. He can cite history and current events, or show blueprints of future scenarios on which the audience can ride on and participate. Visual presentations make all things sound as clear as day and easy to remember.

3M Philippines has multi-media projectors that are perfect for the campaign trail. 3M's multimedia projectors are known performers that can survive travel on rough roads and put on a good show even in the great outdoors. The Model MP7650 has the winning combination of lumens (brightness) and connectivity. This means just a long extension cord from an electrical source will get you the drama and impact you need even in the remotest barrio.

If you need even brighter projections under harsh sunlight or similar conditions, go for the model with a brighter (3,500) lumens. This is the Model MP8790. Not only will you be assured of creating the impact you need because of the novelty of your presentation, you are also assured that it is a powerful reliable equipment that ensures continued projection, and clarity and sharpness of images.

You can flash picture on the screen even in bright daylight – no need for a darkened room or special facility. You can also connect easily to video or computer to show a variety of data in various formats that will regale the crowd and hold their attention.

3M's visual equipment are also ideal for office or war room use. In fact, you can take the 3M™ multimedia projectors to and fro campaign headquarters and the campaign trail with ease. They're rugged troopers that are so durable that even constant movement on rocky terrain won't break them. They're portable and not bulky.

And here's the best part. In case you drop or break your multi-media projector on the campaign trail, you can always count on 3M's after sales service to come to the rescue. 3M's after-sales service centers are open in Metro Manila and in key cities. You are assured of quick repair service because spare parts are always available anywhere you are, whether you're in the metro or in provinces.

Along with these powerful visual equipment, 3M offers tripod screens and other related products that will guarantee your presentation is a winner. 3M Philippines is committed to product excellence and the reliability of these products in performing their tasks. But that's not all. 3M helps its users to become better communicators by providing ideas and opportunities to create better visual communication presentations. Apart from free seminars on better presentations, 3M also provides brochures and information kits that will share the secrets of powerful public projection and effective communication.

Call Kay Concepcion-Venturina at the 3M office, tel. no. [illegible] or [illegible], to find out more about 3M's array of multimedia projectors and how these advanced visual equipment can help you win hearts and minds.

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# OPINION

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## Coincidence

**EDITORIAL**

IT is another clear indication of how low police credibility has sunk that what should be one of their shining achievements is being eclipsed by doubts about their methods. The killing of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi Sunday night has been hailed by many Asian leaders as a major victory in the international war against terrorism, but some Filipino leaders have questioned the official version of the incident that led to his death.

Al-Ghozi was a prize catch. First arrested and charged for illegal possession of more than one ton of explosives, Al-Ghozi later admitted that he had planned to use the explosives to bomb several embassies in Singapore. Then it was established that he was a top operative and bombing expert of Jemaah Islamiyah, the most feared terrorist organization in Southeast Asia that has close links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. Then he admitted to having engineered the series of bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 that left 22 people dead and more than 100 others wounded. He was starting to serve a 17-year sentence on the illegal explosives charge when he escaped from the maximum security detention center in Camp Crame, the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police, last July 14.

The Al-Ghozi escape was the biggest embarrassment in years for the PNP, if not for the Macapagal administration which has sided unquestioningly with the United States in the war on terrorism after 9/11. The escape and the horrible image of the country it projected to the international community prompted the government to launch what was arguably the biggest manhunt in memory, with 67 "tracker teams" thrown into the effort. The recapture of Al-Ghozi would have been a kind of redemption for both the police and the administration.

But it is not turning out that way. Even as the police celebrated and Malacañang was congratulated by foreign governments, several officials, including some in the administration, doubted the police account of how Al-Ghozi was killed. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the story of Al-Ghozi's death in an encounter with a combined police and military force was "too good to be true." He added that the killing "only confirms earlier reports that Al-Ghozi had long been in the hands of the military, " waiting for the right time to be "sacrificed."

One military official, who was involved in the manhunt, said his "reading" was that the terrorist "had been under military custody even before the so-called shootout." There were reports of multi-million-peso payoffs to the handlers of the fugitive who carried a P10-million bounty on his head. Another paper quoted an intelligence source as saying that they had documentary evidence to prove Al-Ghozi was already "under the custody of his handlers" before he was killed.

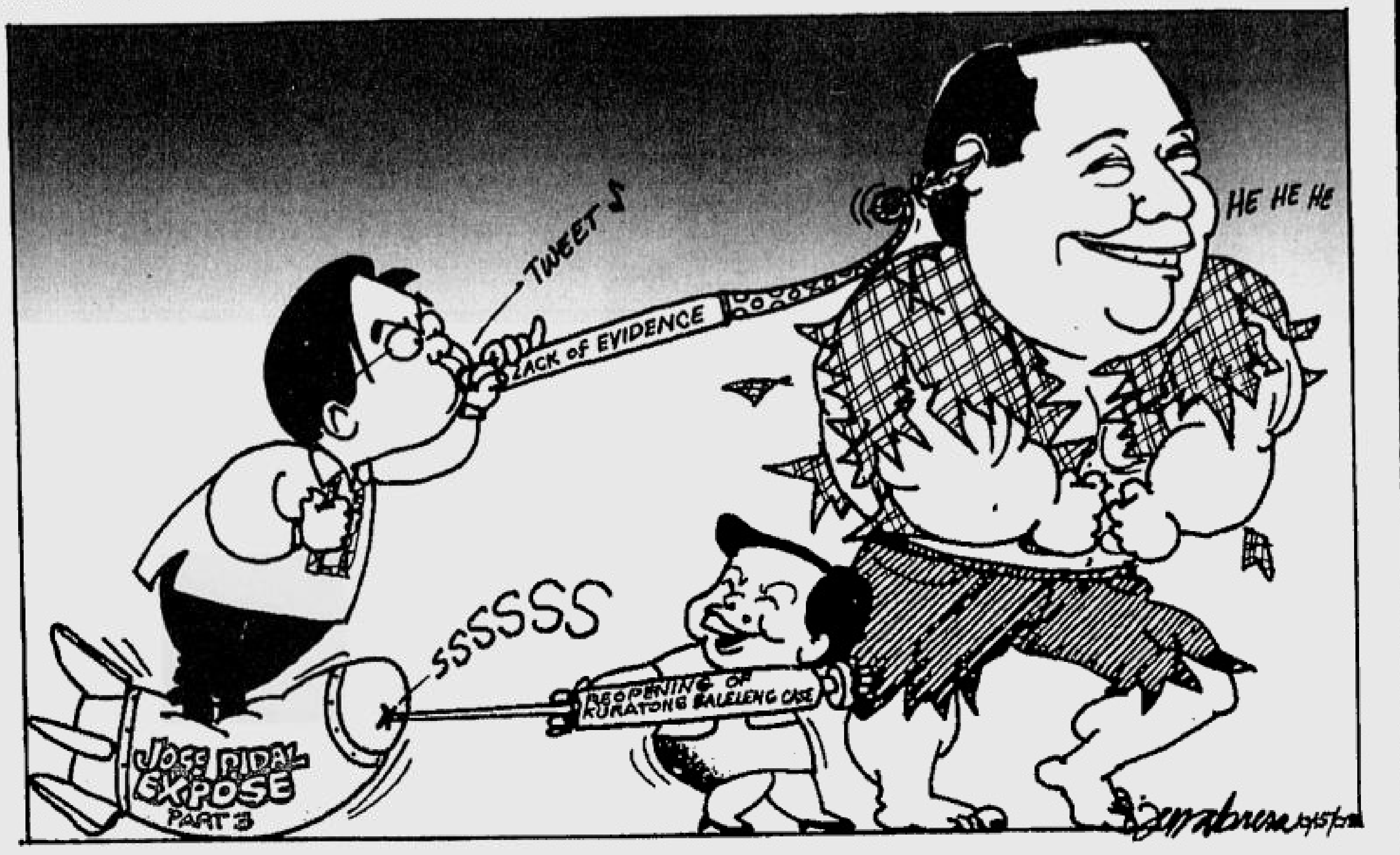
Local officials also disputed the police story of a shootout. The mayor of Pigcawayan said no encounter ever took place in his town and said the story had been invented. One man living near the area where the encounter took place insisted that he heard only three shots and not seven, as the police reported.

Police officials, however, insist that Al-Ghozi was killed in a shootout with government forces. Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, chief of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) Team, said even the trajectory of the bullets that killed Al-Ghozi would prove that he was killed in a shootout. He said subsequent tests done by the police showed that the terrorist had fired the .45-caliber pistol found near his body.

No matter how hard they try to explain, the doubts persists and both the police and the administration have only themselves to blame. Several times in the past word had been leaked from official sources that Al-Ghozi's capture was imminent. At one time, this was reported coming in a matter of days. And when President Macapagal-Arroyo flew last Sept. 22 to Zamboanga Sibugay, saying she would personally take charge of the manhunt, that served as confirmation, in the view of many, that Al-Ghozi was already in government hands.

But if indeed Al-Ghozi was already being held in custody, why did the President not bring him to Malacañang like a trophy? The cynical answer is that the administration was waiting for an even better time. Like the third installment of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's exposé on Jose Pidal, which would then be relegated to the inside pages. Or close to US President Bush's visit so that he would have more to praise about Ms Macapagal's war on terrorism. Or both—which was what happened.

All together these would have looked like a happy coincidence. Except that there are many who aren't buying the story.



## All you want to know about the elections

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THINGS you'll never learn if you don't attend the weekly Kapihan sa Manila; last Monday's information was courtesy of panelists Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel:

1. You can still vote in the 2004 elections even if you failed to revalidate your Comelec registration. The difference is that when revalidated by the machines, you can vote quickly, no hassle; whereas if you were not revalidated, there would be the usual red tape and your registration could be challenged.

2. The revalidation process is not only for the 2004 elections. Because of the number of voters (35 million), cost and logistical problems, it will take four to five years to complete the primary data for the electorate. The digital registration this year is only the beginning, with a modest target of five million voters for the 2004 elections, and the rest of the electorate before 2007.

3. Squatters registering for the first time in their new temporary addresses will no longer be accepted, but those already registered can vote.

4. Because there are not enough of them, automated counting machines (ACMs) will be used only in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The budget for ACMs is only a P1.3 billion, enough for only 1,991 units, each of which can theoretically count 20,000 ballots in 24 hours. Experience in the ARMM has shown, however, that the ideal conditions for automated counting cannot be achieved. Many teachers had to fall in line—some for more than 24 hours—just to have their ballots fed into the machine.

5. Ballots in the rest of the country, therefore, have to be counted the old manual way. Hence, results cannot be guaranteed within 24 hours.

6. Ballots cast by overseas voters will be counted manually and transmitted to Manila electronically.

7. Overseas voters can vote only for the president, vice president and senators, but not for local candidates, including congressmen. If there's a shift to a parliamentary system before the 2004 elections, the overseas voters would not be able to vote for anybody as only local candidates and members of the parliament (MPs) would be elected. It would be the MPs who would elect the prime minister, the counterpart of today's president. They, therefore, would be effectively disfranchised from voting for their chief executive.

8. The Comelec is asking Congress to pass before the 2004 elections an amendatory bill to remove this privilege of incumbent officials as it is unfair to other candidates. But since members of Congress passed that provision precisely to benefit themselves, it is not likely that they would repeal it.

9. Under another law, a party can field in a substitute candidate for another, as late as on the eve of the election, and all the votes for the replaced candidate will be counted in favor of the substitute. For example, the popular Fernando Poe Jr. can run for president and campaign. A day before the elections, FPJ's party can substitute Danding Cojuangco for FPJ. All the votes cast for FPJ will then be counted for Cojuangco, even if the voters did not intend or wanted that; and even if the voters did not know there was a substitution.

This will allow an unscrupulous candidate or party to use a candidate's popularity, like FPJ's, to get votes for an unpopular one and fool the voters. In effect, the voters do not get the candidate they voted for.

The Comelec has asked Congress to repeal this law as it is clearly unfair.

10. The ACMs are good for only one election. They will be obsolete in 2007. The P1.3 billion spent for them would go down the drain. Storing the machines in air-conditioned rooms until the next elections—which may not be practical anyway—may cost as much as buying new ones. No computer firm, however, is willing to only lease the machines.

11. The contract for the supply of the machines has been signed but no amount has been paid. There is a pending suit asking the Supreme Court to nullify the contract. The tribunal is reportedly about to render its decision.

If it nullified the contract, there would be no ACMs, and the supplier would not be paid. Even if there is a penalty clause in the contract, it would not be enforceable if the contract is declared void. The government, therefore, doesn't lose anything. But the supplier would be left holding an empty bag.

12. There are two problems with the ACMs. One is that folded ballots cannot be read by the ACMs. Voters are used to folding their ballots to maintain the privacy of their choices. The ACMs, however, would encounter problems with folded ballots. In past ARMM elections, humidity caused the ballots to jam the machines.

13. The other problem is the confusing ballot design. Under the old system, voters write the names of the candidates of their choice. Under the new system, the choice is reflected as a mark opposite numbers which represent candidates. This could confuse voters and lead to unintended results.

The Comelec is thinking of using numbers for local elective officials and names for national candidates, in order to print one generic form nationwide.

## Still, moro-moro

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

I was bowled over by something Erwin Tulfo said on TV last Tuesday. It was in one of the early morning programs. They had just aired a report on the killing of Al-Ghozi. The report showed GMA crowing over it, after having personally viewed Al-Ghozi's corpse, saying it was a triumph of her anti-terrorist policy. It proved terrorism would never thrive in this country. The report went on to say however that the government's version of a shootout was being widely challenged. It quoted several witnesses, among them Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, as saying they heard only two shots, which suggested a rubout rather than a shootout.

Tintin Bersola then asked viewers to say whether they thought Al- Ghozi died by confrontation or by execution. But before they took the calls, Tulfo interjected to say that as far as he was concerned, he did not particularly care how Al-Ghozi died. Whether shootout or rubout, it was perfectly fine by him.

What an idiotic thing to say. It's not a question of censorship, it's a question of ethics. I can't see how the most powerful TV station in this country can be party to a tacit endorsement of "salvaging" (summary execution). On the presumptuous, if not arrogant, ground that the "salvaged" deserve to die?

By Tulfo's argument, Panfilo Lacson too should be exonerated for the Kuratong Baleleng rubout. Whether it was a rubout or a shootout doesn't really matter. The victims were dregs of the earth anyway—*mga halang ang kaluluwa*, as our local Dirty Harrys like to call them—who shouldn't be allowed to pollute it one second longer. Lacson himself argues so—*di dapat panghinayangan*, nobody is going to miss them—even if he insists his men killed the suspects in a gunfight, notwithstanding that they had their hands tied behind their backs. Unless, of course, Tulfo's argument is that Christian suspects are entitled to some legal niceties while Muslim suspects are not. Unless of course his argument is that a good Moro is a dead Moro. Well, they have put it in those terms.

But what horrendous irony that GMA should be embroiled in a "salvaging" while she is busy trying to put away her biggest tormentor on that very ground. The timing of the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case, if not its substance, patently suggests the hand of Malacañang. I heard my friend Arno Sanidad explain on TV how all the evidence in the Kuratong Baleleng case pointed to a rubout. The victims' wounds, their positions when they were discovered, the cuffs on their hands: all showed they could not have fought back. It was murder pure and simple. I believe him.

But for the same reason, can the evidence in Al-Ghozi's death point to anything but a rubout?

First off, what are the odds government troops would run into Al-Ghozi on the very eve of the visit of George W. Bush? The dragnet had been laid out for him for months, but they just happened to chance upon him early this week. While at that, there was a manhunt for him in the first place because quite inexplicably—certainly government has not explained it to this day—despite presumably being one of the world's most dangerous criminals, he managed to slip unnoticed from an entire military camp, past his guards, past uniformed personnel, past the gate sentries, a camp whose motto is "Always outnumbered but never outfought." That is "a big victory in the war against terror?"

Second off, what are the odds one of the world's most dangerous criminals—and one who vowed not to be taken alive—would be discovered alone one day, put up a fight but fail to hurt any one of his would-be captors; and after a fierce fight, show a couple of clean shots to the chest instead of a bullet-riddled body? Do you need to be a forensics expert or submit Al-Ghozi's body to those who examined the Kuratong Baleleng victims to reach any conclusion there? Rubout is pretty much inescapable. On top of that, you have no dearth of witnesses who say so.

Ramon Magsaysay Jr. puts into words the public sentiment when he says: "It's too good to be true. This only confirms earlier reports that Al-Ghozi had long been in the hands of the military and when the 'right time' came, he had to be 'sacrificed.'" In fact, the more accurate, if lurid, metaphor is that he was fattened like a pig—I wouldn't be surprised if his captors thought of it that way, in an added slur against the Muslim aversion to pork—and slaughtered as a gift for the visiting American conqueror.

The people who argue that the case against Lacson must go on—the law must take its course however Malacañang has an axe to grind against him—have a point. The law may not be delayed or deferred because it is inconvenient to some people. But that same argument applies to GMA.

GMA, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces of this country, may no more escape responsibility for what happened to Al-Ghozi, than Lacson, as head of PACC, may escape responsibility for what happened to the Kuratong Baleleng suspects. GMA may no more be excused for murder because she is fighting a "war against terror" than Lacson may be excused for murder because he was fighting a "war against crime." GMA may no more be free from arrest because she is the President and is playing host to the Great American Duh than Lacson may be free from arrest because he is a senator and is playing scourge to the not-so-Great Filipino Clone.

They are both indictable for murder. And I must ask why the senators and congressmen who suddenly discovered the majesty of the law, the inviolability of due process, and the preciousness of human life when it went against Lacson are not similarly exercised when it goes against GMA.

Everything smacks of moro-moro. But again, I can't understand why we attribute charade, duplicity and doubletalk to Moros.

# Perceptions of correction

ANALYSIS

*Amando Doronila*

THE BERLIN-BASED Transparency International, in its corruption perception index for 2003 released last week, again ranked Finland the least corrupt country in the world. TI rated Finland No. 1, followed by Denmark and New Zealand (second), Iceland (fourth) and Singapore and Sweden (fifth). Singapore is the only Asian country that joined the list of the 10 least corrupt countries.

Finland, with a rating of 9.7 points, had been ranked by TI as the least corrupt country for three years in a row—from 2000, 2001 to 2002. The top 10 least corrupt countries are relatively small countries which, incidentally, are also highly developed economies. Finland has also received from the World Economic Forum a high rating in competitiveness.

Industrial democracies with big economies ended up with lower indices than the top 10, suggesting that the level of economic development and size of economy ensure lower corruption incidence. The United States, Germany and France, ranked 18th, 16th and 23d, respectively.

The TI corruption index is based on perceptions by business leaders, academics and risk analysts of the degree to which corruption exists among public officials and politicians.

In stark contrast to the indices of the least corrupt countries, the Philippines ranked 92, sharing miserable company with Albania, Argentina, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Zambia. The Philippines' score was 2.5 points, where the maximum possible score of 10 points meant "highly clean." In other words, our score walked on the edge of zero, the lowest possible score which meant "highly corrupt." More depressing for the Philippines is that its score has been dipping from 2.9 points in 2001, and 2.6 in 2002 to 2.5 in 2003.

The political implication of the high level of corruption was pointed out by Bruce Gale, risk analyst for Hill and Associates Risk Consultancy, who said that with a number of elections taking place in Southeast Asia over the next 12 months, opposition groups are going to highlight corruption as a political issue. When the economy slows down, people tend to ask questions and to focus on corruption.

The relationship between corruption and sustainable development was pointed out by TI head Peter Elgen, who said that "The bribes and incentives to corrupt public officials and politicians are undermining the prospects of sustainable development in poorer countries."

In a separate report released last week, the World Bank linked corruption in poor countries to more structural causes, not just to the venalities of any particular administration. The report found that the more highly regulated an economy is, the higher the opportunities for corruption and the costs of doing business.

The rich countries were noted to regulate business the least. The report said, "Heavier regulation brings bad outcomes. [It] is generally associated with greater inefficiency in public institutions and results in higher unemployment, increased corruption, less productivity and investment, but not better quality of private or public goods."

On the other hand, the report said that poor countries regulated the most while having the least enforcement capacity. It also had fewer checks and balances in government to ensure that regulatory discretion is not used to abuse businesses and extract bribes.

The report cited the Philippines as among nine countries—Bolivia, Burkina Paso, Chad, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mali Mozambique, Paraguay and Venezuela—out of 130 countries surveyed, that have the most rules for business, resulting in stifling corruption and higher unemployment.

The report cited the Philippines as a case of heavy regulation, where it takes 50 days and 11 procedures to start a business, and costs 100 percent to enforce a simple commercial contract. Closing a business takes an average of 5.7 years.

From first-hand accounts of small Filipino businessmen, it takes ages to take a license from the Department of Trade and Industry which has claimed that it is giving incentives to small businesses by cutting the time for granting licenses. World Bank data show the Philippines' inadequate rules to support credit transactions and creditor rights.

By contrast, the report points out that in Australia, an investor can register a business in two days. In Denmark, an investor doesn't pay anything to start a business.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo rebuffed the Transparency International index, saying its report is based on perception, not on evidence and "positive action" by government. The President gave the wrong argument. She cited the current campaign checking the lifestyles of public officials, especially those associated with revenue collection agencies of the government—the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

There is no sign that this highly publicized lifestyle campaign has dented corruption. True, some charges have been brought against some BIR officials, but the will to prosecute has yet to be demonstrated. The approach of the campaign is to shame and embarrass officials whose lifestyles have been monitored by watchdogs and even private citizens, but not by prosecution authorities. A number of them have been driven to resign their positions. This method of curbing corruption may have encouraged private citizens to form self-appointed vigilante groups reporting public manifestations of high living, which are linked to corruption on the assumption that the officials' salaries cannot support such lifestyle. But such link requires hard evidence. The result of this vigilantes' campaign is trial by publicity and lynch mob rule. It does not help at all a serious criminal prosecution campaign or constitute political will to combat corruption.

# Two fictional Jesuits

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

BELIEVING that the Jesuits in the Philippines would be judged on the quality of their response to martial law, Fr. Ben Santos, the Jesuit provincial, sets about doing what he thinks is needed: standing up to the power of the Marcos regime, listening to the poor and disfranchised, and giving their pain and their anger a voice and an avenue for grievance.

In the course of heeding what he knows to be God's call not just to him but to the rest of the Jesuit community and, indeed, to the Church as a whole, Ben Santos succeeds only in making himself a sworn enemy of the regime and in isolating himself from the rest of the Jesuits who believe he has put the Order in peril.

This, in a nutshell, is what Denis Murphy's novel, "A Watch in the Night," is all about: one man's struggle to discern what religious call "the signs of the times," and his subsequent trial by threat, force, intimidation (including an assassination attempt), shunning and loneliness—the last two of which are particularly painful for any male religious who has left his family for the company of his confreres.

The book is a work of fiction, Murphy tells us. He admits to borrowing heavily from his friends—and those who went to the Ateneo or accessed the Jesuit rumor mill may recognize a few thinly disguised characters—but he adds that he had "real people in mind in a general way." Murphy, a laicized Jesuit who has devoted a lifetime to working with the urban poor, even borrows from himself, in the person of Fr. Tim Murtaugh, the American who "loved slums as other people love art and music."

* * *

**AS THE NOVEL commences, Murtaugh has been working with Tondo folks for 12 years, and he has made their struggle for land and rights his own. Santos, a war hero who survived incarceration and torture at the hands of the Japanese at Fort Santiago, begins spending more and more time in Tondo with Murtaugh, finding in the simple joys of the desperately poor folk much-needed peace and comfort from the troubles of martial law.**

Murphy is unsparing in his indictment not just of the Marcoses, the military and the martial law apparatus, but also of his Jesuit brothers, especially of those in the academe who thought compromise and accommodation were necessary if only to protect the colleges and universities under their wings from persecution and retaliation.

But he also obviously nurses a lingering fondness for the older priests, the missionaries who left their homelands to work in primitive missions, hacking out parishes and schools from the jungle with little more than brute strength and force of will. Murphy dotes particularly on the eccentrics in the Society, brilliant men who shun ordinary company to follow their own paths.

"A Watch in the Night" is not for those seeking a comprehensive history of martial law and the protest movement and the rebellion it spawned. It is for the curious about the workings of the Church. A large portion of the novel is devoted to the political machinations attending the Pope's visit to Manila, providing rare insight into the way the religious relate to each other, to church authorities, and to the faithful, including the temptations that tend to swamp them in moments of loneliness and emptiness.

One passage I found particularly moving, as Murphy attempts to explain why missionaries are especially close to their mothers, "whom they hadn't seen age or grow fearful and cranky at the end." "People wonder why Catholic mothers encourage their sons to be priests and missionaries," he writes. "The missionary's unending, unchanging love is a good reason."

* * *

ANOTHER Jesuit, cut from a quite different bolt of cloth from Santos or Murtaugh, is also the central character of another work of fiction, a rarity in Philippine letters in that it is "a Pinoy detective novel…with a Jesuit priest, a forensic anthropologist, as the sleuth."

The Jesuit in F. H. Batacan's "Smaller and Smaller Circles" is Gus Saenz who runs a clandestine and unofficial forensic lab in the Jesuit university. Consulted by authorities on crimes that prove especially puzzling, he must cope not just with the science of unveiling the truth and perhaps unmasking the perpetrator, but also with the delicate politics of unraveling a sensational crime while giving police officials their due.

"Smaller and Smaller Circles" is sleekly written, slowly building up the tension, and painting its characters, especially the serial killer who targets undersized and undernourished prepubescent boys, in a vivid, compelling manner. But F.H. Batacan, a Singapore-based journalist, succeeds best with Saenz, whom she presents as a cultured, refined son of an affluent, amiable family, struggling with his demons (his love of the good life, his eye for an attractive female figure), and grappling with the dilemma of whether his keen intellect can accommodate the unknowns of his faith and the immeasurable dimensions of the spiritual.

I'm looking forward to further encounters with this intriguing, fascinating Jesuit sleuth.

* * *

**UNCANNILY, like "A Watch in the Night," "Smaller and Smaller Circles" opens in a slum, in a garbage dump, in fact. Both Murphy and Batacan are quite graphic in their descriptions of the urban underbelly, the reader can almost smell the rotting garbage, the effluence running through shallow canals, the filth underfoot. Both also paint Manila in all its confusing reality—the traffic is always a featured player—for obviously, neither author is interested in the Manila of shopping malls, country clubs or five-star hotels. Something tells me it's the gritty reality, not the illusory bubble of the A-B class, that the world is interested in about Manila.**

# Mistresses

LOOKING BACK

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

ONE wonders how far and what directions the Report-a-Mistress campaign will go on people in public service. When I read about the first batch of reports, submitted to the Ombudsman for further investigation and eventual prosecution, I laughed wondering whether a public official's personal life should and can be kept private. Should affairs be ignored unless it interferes with the performance of a public official? Can we separate the public from the private without resorting to the various codes of ethics and conduct in government service? But then there are laws against adultery, as there are ordinances against jaywalking that are sporadically and selectively enforced. Can love or lust be private for public officials?

While the Report-a-Mistress campaign casts a wide net, we hope it will not just catch the little fishes while allowing the big ones, as usual, to get away. If complaints on immorality committed by public officials get to the courts, will they prosper? Aside from the tabloids, only historians will benefit directly from all this thus validating Andres Bonifacio's warning to "fear history, for in it nothing can be hidden."

Long before making its way to the Op-Ed page of the INQUIRER, this column started out in the "Lifestyle and Entertainment" section of the Daily Globe. Before that, my nose for news had been sharpened by sheer proximity to entertainment writer Ricky Lo. As we would race to beat our deadlines, he would interrupt my train of thought by asking how certain words were spelled. To get even, I would invest in bags of *butong pakwan* and left it open by his table. Those were the days of manual typewriters and rolled sheets of newsprint that were literally cut and pasted (actually we used staplers) before submission to our editors. All this may sound pre-historic in the age of e-mail and laptops, but the method is still the same—research, thinking and writing up. Both the entertainment writer and the historian use the personal to broaden our understanding of the public acts of celebrities or historical figures.

When I presented the personal lives of heroes some academics took offense, snorted and described my early work as trivial and, at best, *tsismis*. They insisted that the personal has no place in history, but then how can we understand the motivation, the inner workings of our "Great" men and women without knowing their private lives? Those who need convincing on this point would do well to read Sigmund Freud on Leonardo and Michelangelo, if only to get an idea into how this can be done.

For something closer to home, one can read "Douglas MacArthur: The Philippine Years" by Carol Morris Petillo (Indiana University Press 1981). Unlike other biographies of the general, this one takes a closer look into the complex relationship MacArthur had with the Philippines and the Filipinos. There are a number of things in that book that are not found in our textbooks—like Manuel Luis Quezon and the Commonwealth government granting MacArthur half a million US dollars as they fled to Corregidor and eventually to the United States. Then there is more data on MacArthur's mistress, "Dimples," than all the other MacArthur biographies combined.

"Dimples" was a screen name for a vaudeville actress who went down in Philippine film history for being on the receiving end of the first onscreen kiss. Depending on which book you are reading, her name either takes the Spanish form Isabel Rosario Cooper or the anglicized Elizabeth Cooper. They met sometime in 1929 when MacArthur was back in Manila, just separated from his wife Louise. What I have been trying to reconstruct is not so much what the couple did during the general's regular visits to her home on Herran Street (now Pedro Gil), Paco, but rather the obviously potent concoction of crushed mango, Spanish brandy and crushed ice that Dimples served and called "the Douglas."

In late 1930, MacArthur accepted the appointment as chief of staff and returned to the United States. The problem was that MacArthur was stationed in Washington and his mother lived with him in Fort Myer, thus he had to arrange at great expense to both his pocket and his reputation to house Dimples close to his office at the hotel Chastleton on 16th St. Washington DC. Petillo makes reference to the correspondence between MacArthur and Dimples as follows:

"Not surprisingly, the letters reflected the General's longstanding romanticism and were filled with assurances of his continuing devotion, both now and forever. More noteworthy, however, was his uncharacteristic emphasis on the social aspect of [his trip back to the US via San Francisco], and the good times he foresaw after they had been reunited. MacArthur seemed fearful that Isabel would not follow him to the States, and spent a great deal of space urging that she prepare with care and allow nothing to interfere with her departure. Between the lines of passionate prose, there was an underlying insecurity…" What is surprising is that Petillo did not have direct access to the Dimples-MacArthur correspondence now in the University of Texas at Austin. In 1976 the tabloid National Enquirer stopped publication of the letters "from the 50-year-old MacArthur to the 16-year-old Dimples" to avoid a lawsuit. I smell a story somewhere.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

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# Moods and dispositions

YOU wake up one morning, and as you drift from groggy sleep to full awareness of your surroundings, what particular day it is crosses your mind: if a special day, you quickly jump out of bed, full of life, all sleepiness forgotten; if just one of those ordinary sunrise-to-sunset-to-bedtime kind of day, you curl back under the sheets to snatch a few more minutes of laziness. I imagine this is true with other oldies and retirees like me.

HIGH BLOOD

*Raymunda P. Ortega*

*WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.* —Ed.

Weekdays or weekends, holidays or working days notwithstanding, I enjoy the luxury of having time on my own from morning till night, no longer pressured by the demands of family to get-up-and-get-going. If I choose to while away my time the whole day through, let it be. If I am reminded of the shopping money a daughter had so generously given me the night before, I at once get up, like a newly charged battery, and prepare for an exciting day at the mall. Forgotten are the drowsiness, rheumatic aches, and all feelings of fatigue, real or imagined. This happens often enough, because I am blessed with more than one daughter who pampers me, and on such occasions (shopping sprees and out-of-town excursions), boredom and ennui become alien feelings.

Moods and dispositions affect all of us, young or old, man or woman, regardless of education and social status. For no reason at all, we may feel down and depressed one day, only to wake up excited and "hyper" the next day, although nothing significant or meaningful has really happened in-between to explain such mood swings. Our moods differ in times when we have money from those instances when we have none. Naturally, we are in a good mood when things go our way, and in a sour mood the moment frustrations and problems arise.

Some decades ago when I was younger, I didn't notice or pay much attention to changing moods—mine, in particular, and that of my hubby, my partner-in-life for more than 50 years now. It is only recently that I have become aware of them and tried to analyze them.

"*Bakit masungit si Lolo?*" a grandchild would ask. I would then sit-up and observe the current disposition of my 74-year-old partner, after which I would hasten to explain that either Lolo has not slept well, or he's worried about something, or his sugar level is high, to explain his irritability.

Which brings me to ask: Are our moods and dispositions affected by our physical health, or lack of it? I do not refer only to the elderly, but also to people of all ages, even as young as those still in their cribs, in their playpens, in schools; and to grownups in their professional lives. Babies cry when they feel pain and the pangs of hunger. We feel bad when we are ill. And when one is ailing, we do not expect him or her to be in a pleasant and excitable mood. Neither do we hear hearty laughter or braggadocio.

As for us, senior citizens, our younger ones often say of us in a tolerant manner: "*Kasi matanda na si Lolo at si Lola, kaya masungit na.*" If we do not want to be labeled as such, we can avoid this, by always maintaining a cheerful mood and good disposition , notwithstanding aches and pains, and sometimes boredom, too. In good times, it is easy to be so; but during difficult and trying times, it takes determination and lots and lots of effort to keep up a Pollyana attitude. We need to ask divine intervention to achieve this.

*Raymunda P. Ortega, 71, is a retired court stenographer of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City.*

# A birthday to remember

*Carlos Santos Gegantoca*

ONE hot August day in 1944, in Pungtod, San Jacinto, Masbate, Bernardo Amor, my stepgrandfather (on my mother's side), was celebrating his 54th birthday. The day was clear, and the skies perfect. Food on the table was plentiful. *Tuba* was flowing freely. The invited guests came from nearby and distant barangays of San Jacinto, and the guest list included the Amors and the Villamors.

Baldo, as my stepgrandfather was fondly called, was a very successful farmer who used scientific methods of farming. Hence, he saw to it that enough food, consisting of delicious "senador" rice, chicken *adobo*, big fat fish that came from Nipa and Baquiad, and roasted pig, would be available. Without a shadow of doubt, it was a birthday celebration that was worthy of note.

My father Eliseo, a policeman who served during the war years, was among the guests. So was my grandfather on my father's side Gregorio. I was only six years old then.

While the guests were feasting on the sumptuous meal and drinking, a guerilla came uninvited. He was drunk, and armed with a fully loaded .38-caliber revolver. Without much ado, he pulled out his revolver and threatened to shoot anyone who dared cross his path.

This guerrilla's name was Dalmacio, a member of the dreaded guerrilla group headed by Ising Presado. Presado was a legendary guerilla leader. He was a sharpshooter who had reputedly killed eight Japanese soldiers singlehandedly in a gunbattle that erupted inside a sailboat traversing Masbate Pass.

When Dalmacio pointed his revolver at my grandmother's sister, she was so terrified that she jumped out of the window even if she was heavy with child.

My father and grandfather were seated on an improvised table outside the house with other guests. Dalmacio approached the group, and pointed his gun at my father who was then unarmed. He had left his gun with my mother, who was in our house some 300 meters away.

My grandfather, who was seated beside my father, began to pray quietly. He was convinced that his prayers were an effective antidote to bullets. The prayer went like this: "*En Deum lignum selorum. Lignum Deum cruces salvame. Jesus, Jesus, Pater te Deus, Recipiat te Deus, Gori sipit te Deus.*"

I believed in my young mind that it was the "Latin prayer" of my grandfather that saved my father that day. Dalmacio's evil intent simply vanished after my grandfather had recited the prayer.

Luis Villamor, my grandmother's brother who knew judo, wrested the gun away from Dalmacio. He then placed it inside a sack and hid it.

Dalmacio reported the matter to Ising. The latter gathered nine of his well-armed guerrillas and led them to where the party was still going on. He warned the guests everyone at the party would be killed unless the gun was returned to him within 12 hours. To punctuate their threat, they fired into the air, sowing fear in the hearts of everyone.

Later that afternoon Pio Amor, who had seen where Luis Villamor hid the gun, took it out and gave it to Ising. Thus, a massacre was averted that fine day in August 1944.

*Carlos Santos Gegantoca, 64, is a retired university professor, and former president of the Albay-Legazpi Press Association.*

# Embarrassing

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's speech before the United Nations and her visit to the Pope were an embarrassment to Filipinos before the international community.

Before the UN General Assembly, she asked for funds to send more Filipino troops to Iraq. The Washington Times quoted Ms Macapagal as saying, "We have budgetary limitations, but if the UN would be involved (in Iraq), then the UN could pick up some of the bill."

Once again, President Macapagal showed her shameless bootlicking before the world community. Here she was speaking before the United Nations, the body that refused to be railroaded by the United States into giving its blessings to the war on Iraq, sounding like an incarnation of George W. Bush. She even had the temerity to suggest that the United Nations foot the bill for additional Philippine troops to US-occupied Iraq, when she herself brazenly went against the United Nations, the Pope and world public opinion on the US preemptive strike against a sovereign country.

If she couldn't sound like a Kofi Annan, Mahathir Mohamad or Jacques Chirac, the least she could have done would have been to keep quiet. But no, she just had to make the pitch for the United States and expose the Philippines for the US neocolony that it really is.

And then Ms Macapagal had the gall to visit the Pope and pose as a devout Catholic when she completely ignored his call for peace in favor of blindly following the Bush doctrines of "preemptive strike," "regime change" and assorted geopolitical hogwash.

How could she claim to be for peace abroad when she is the No. 1 supporter of the warmonger Bush? How could she say she wants peace in Mindanao when under her administration, the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has been repeatedly sabotaged and undermined by her administration's all-out war policy?

Ms Macapagal's five-day trip has bolstered the opinion in the world community that her administration is a puppet regime of the United States. We're sure her hypocrisy on the issue of the US-led war on Iraq, as well as her pathetic stance as a US-backed mercenary, are not lost on many world leaders. She is an embarrassment to the whole country.

**—TEODORO A. CASIÑO,**
**secretary general,**
**Bagong Alyansang Makabayan**

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# Deal with AIDS problem with urgency

AFTER A LONG silence, the Department of Health finally admitted that the country's HIV/AIDS condition is worsening and the number of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) has also gone up. The admission may have been prompted by the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez tiff, which catapulted show-biz news to the level of national issues, or the department just realized that the country is now on the brink of a possible STD explosion.

The Philippines is one of several Asian countries considered highly volatile to STIs, including the HIV/AIDS virus. For now, the DOH is bragging that the number of known cases of HIV/AIDS in the country is only a little over 1,000, unlike in Thailand and Vietnam where HIV/AIDS cases are estimated to have reached between 50,000 and 500,000.

UNAIDS, the official arm of the United Nations for AIDS concerns, notes, "The Philippines has an HIV/AIDS epidemic that has a huge explosion potential." This is primarily due to the large population of sex workers who are not properly regulated or even monitored by local health officials; the rising incidence of teen or youth casual sex; the high number of overseas workers mostly seamen and the low use of condoms. The last may be attributable to the influence of the Catholic Church which opposes the use of contraceptives like condoms. It is high time for the Church, as the guardian of morality of the people, remained true to its nature of being a "shepherd of the flock," and in this way guard not just the morality of the people but even the health of the people.

The issue and the concerns of STIs and HIV/AIDS should be continually, openly discussed, not just when some famous figure publicly admits she or he has an STI or when the United Nations meets on the issue. DOH's silence over this concern for the past years has taken its toll on the DOH fight against HIV/AIDS, particularly on its anti-HIV/AIDS budget, which has gone down from ₱21 million in the late 1990s to roughly about P9 million this year. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said that the department's surveillance systems monitoring STIs and HIV/AIDS cases have reported a "low and slow" prevalence of the dreaded diseases, but this is no assurance against a possible epidemic. A reason for this so-called low and slow prevalence rate of venereal diseases and AIDS cases may be due to the culture of Filipinos to hide the truth due to possible societal discrimination.

Why is the anti-HIV/AIDS program given less priority in budgeting?

Congress passed the Anti-AIDS Law (RA 8504) in 1996. But until now we can only show its poor implementation. Aside from budget cuts in the DOH's anti-AIDS program, the supply of antiretroviral medicines has also declined.

Like any other problem, HIV/AIDS cannot be done or solved mainly by the government. Society must play a role to fight this dreaded disease. The Catholic Church must open its veiled eyes and be practical.

**—DANTE JOSE D. BORJA II,**
**Muntinlupa City**

# GMA should act on GSIS mess

MALACAÑANG should stop protecting Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia and must immediately act on the demand of hundreds of thousands of government employees for Garcia's immediate and irrevocable resignation even as he is being investigated for the anomalies and for the deplorable service of the GSIS, such as the delay in the release of loans.

Garcia decided to suspend/defer the processing of GSIS loans (except pensions and funeral benefits) effective May 5, 2003. According to the memorandum issued by Garcia, the suspension was required to allow the GSIS to update the records of all members. This decision was implemented at a time when many members found it necessary to seek loans to finance their children's schooling, tuition payments and other requirements.

Under Garcia, the GSIS has made highly questionable stock investments and institutional loans (e.g. P1.0B loan to Public Estates Authority), and other investments (e.g., P46M Juan Luna painting, etc.). Checks and balances, accountability and transparency should be instituted to ensure that the investible funds of the GSIS benefit the members. Because of the anomalies and abuses, the main GSIS beneficiaries—the government workers—have been greatly inconvenienced and their economic welfare compromised.

Already, it's an outrage that many agencies fail to remit their employees' contributions despite the same being deducted from employee's monthly salaries. Such practice, in most instances, unjustly deprives government employees of their right to avail themselves of the benefits under the GSIS. But it persists to this day, and a government agency or official has yet to be held accountable.

The members of the GSIS board should also be subjected to an immediate lifestyle check. We have to determine how seriously these officials have abused their authority and accumulated ill-gotten wealth by sacrificing the interests of its main clients, the government employees. These officials have been untouchables for a long time.

Malacañang must act on the popular demand of GSIS members all over the country and sack Garcia.

**—REP. CRISPIN B. BELTRAN,**
**Bayan Muna Party List,**
**South Wing, Rm. 617,**
**House of Representatives**

# Thank you, Mr. Pepe Pimentel

FROM TWO senior citizens, we glory in witnessing the Filipino culture of "helpfulness" still alive. About six days ago on our way home passing the Guadalupe bridge, the engine of my car stalled. I tried several times to start it but to no avail. This made me suspect that I was very low on gas. So I started out to buy gasoline, leaving my wife to watch the car.

It was a trying experience as I had to cross Edsa using the MRT terminal at Boni to get to the gas station on the other side during a heavy rain.

When I came back in a taxi, I saw a car with a government plate in front of my car. I alighted with some misgivings, expecting to be cited for "obstruction." But lo and behold, the man who met me extended his hand and introduced himself as Pepe Pimentel, barangay captain of Laging Handa, Quezon City. He was ready with his ropes and offered to tow my car to the nearest gasoline station. When I showed him the gasoline I bought, he helped me instead to restart my engine. When the engine was running smoothly, we started off with Pimentel escorting us up to the gasoline station. Mr. Pimentel, thank you very much for your assistance.

**—FRANCISCO AND LUZ LOPEZ,**
**Tahimik Street,**
**Teacher's Village West,**
**Quezon City**

# Lost SSS records?

I PREPARED this letter on behalf of my brother-in-law, Benito Y. Sabado, a Social Security System member. He was with ABS-CBN from May 1961 to Dec. 31, 1987. Last Sept. 5, 2001, he applied for retirement.

The records from the SSS Central Office showed that there were no remittances submitted by ABS-CBN from May 1961 to Sept. 21, 1972. The remittances on record were only from September 1986 to Dec. 31, 1987.

As per records of the ABS-CBN, the employee's and employer's shares were being paid religiously to the SSS even before and post-martial law periods.

Sabado was even granted a salary loan and paid the same during his period of employment. How come there were no records of contributions credited to his number from May 1961 to Sept. 21, 1971?

It's very frustrating that with the new system of the SSS my brother-in-law cannot retire after years of service with ABS-CBN.

**—FILIPINA ROMANA-MASANGCAY,**
**54 Mabini St., 4032 Luisiana, Laguna**

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E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

# Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

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# Militants bent on anti-Bush march

**ANGELES CITY—There's no stopping about 5,000 farmers and activists from proceeding with the three-day caravan from the Clark Special Economic Zone to the Batasan Pambansa complex in Quezon City starting Oct. 16, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) leaders in Central Luzon said.**

"It's an all-go for us," said Roman Polintan, Bayan regional chair, amid what he claimed were plans by the military and the police to "block all possible entry points to Metro Manila to thwart protesters" from four Northern Luzon regions.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Bayan leaders said they were meeting Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, for their group's security plan.

Joseph Canlas, chair of the party-list group Anakpawis, said the caravan, dubbed as "Lakbayan-Sakbayan ng Anakpawis," was using a color-coding scheme to ward off saboteurs from sowing violence in their ranks.

Most of the protesters, he said, would come from the farming sector.

Polintan said the North Luzon contingent was determined to reach Quezon City on Oct. 18 in time for the address of US President George W. Bush at a joint session in Congress.

Bayan members from Central Luzon, Ilocos and the Cordillera are expected to converge on Oct. 16 in Clark where they are scheduled to hold an overnight vigil against Bush.

They leave for Bocaue, Bulacan, on Oct. 17 for a picket. The contingent from Cagayan Valley would merge with the Clark contingent in that town and proceed to Metro Manila.

Crispin Tandog of the Workers Alliance in Central Luzon said members of unions affiliated with the Kilusang Mayo Uno are holding factory-based protest actions on Friday to denounce Bush's visit.

Some militants got a taste of the security preparations when checkpoints stopped them from proceeding to protest sites in various Southern Tagalog areas.

Some managed to slip past the checkpoints and conduct a noise barrage.

Protesters from Laguna waved red and yellow small flags stamped with small traffic signs bearing the words STOP Bush and Corruption Ahead to greet protesters from Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro and Batangas.

Anti-Bush protest actions in Mindoro began as early as Oct. 10.

Protesters marched several kilometers to demonstrate against Bush's visit.

The protesters merged with workers' groups.

They plan to proceed to Metro Manila on the day of Bush's arrival.

In Davao City, militant groups vowed to hold protest actions to welcome the visit of Bush on Saturday.

Omar Bantayan, secretary-general of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in Southern Mindanao, said the gathering will protest the continued intervention of the US government in the affairs of the country.

Bantayan said most of the protesters will come from as far as Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, North Cotabato and Davao del Sur.

Jeppie Ramada, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) spokesperson, said they will see to it that their protest actions will be orderly and peaceful. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Farmer who killed 3 in Antique charged

SAN JOSE, Antique—Police yesterday filed three counts of murder against a fisherman who, on Sunday, hacked to death a family of three after he tried to rob them of P500 in Libertad town, Antique.

SPO2 Ruperto Daguhoy, acting Libertad police chief, said they filed the complaint before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office against Jun Francis Sualog.

Sualog, 23, admitted killing Amado Maglantay, 67; Maglantay's wife Appie, 47; and their 18-year-old daughter Jessa Annie inside the victims' home in Barangay Sentro Weste, near the town proper, about 148 km north of here.

The couple's two foster children, ages 3 and 16, were unharmed.

"I did it and I'm ready to face the consequences," he told the INQUIRER at the provincial police headquarters where he was detained.

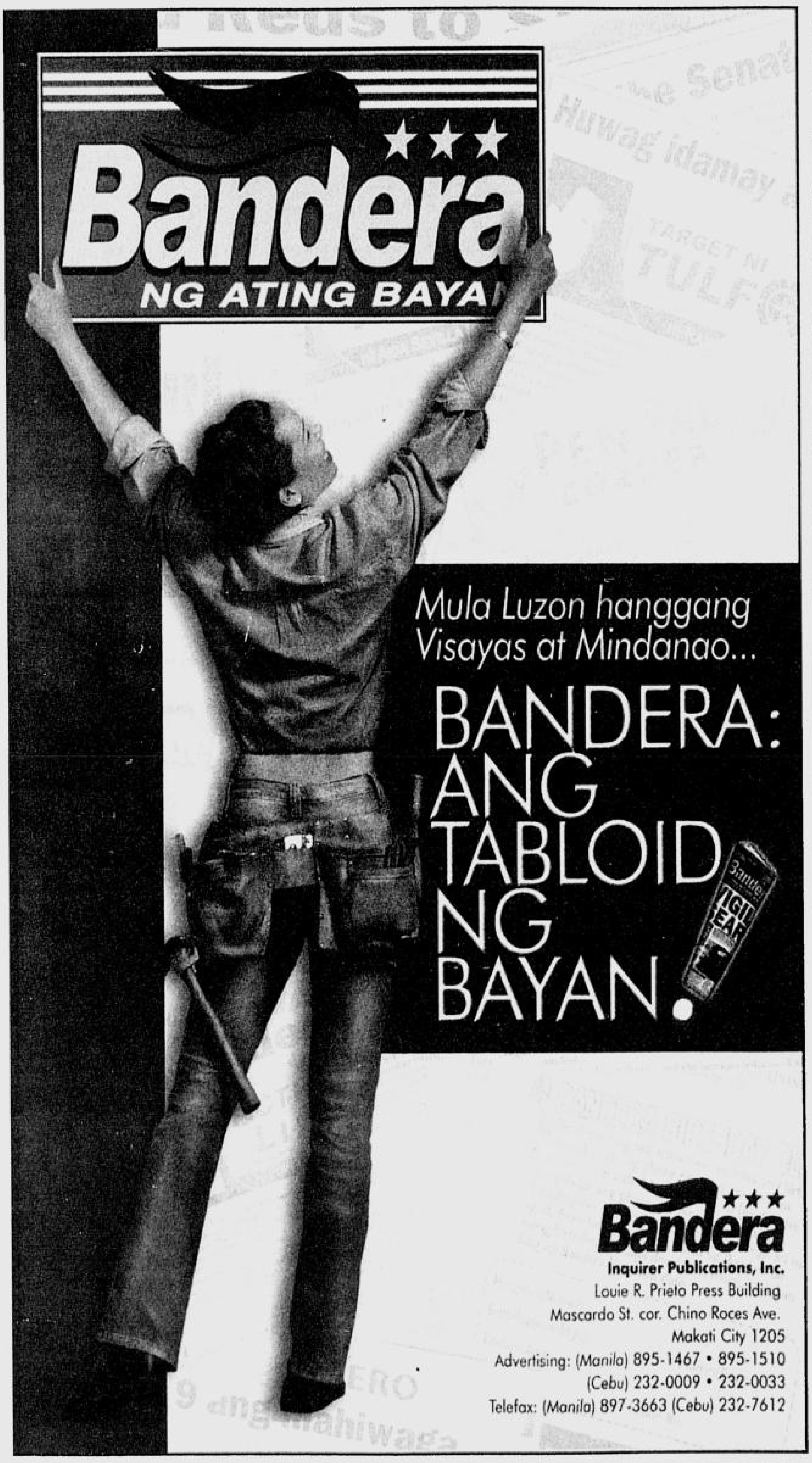
He admitted he was drunk when he killed the family.

Police arrested the suspect at his residence in the neighboring village of Sentro Este shortly after the killings.

Sualog said he wanted to steal money and appliances that he could sell. He needed P500 to replace the money that he had stolen from his grandfather Vicente Sualog, he said.

The money was lost playing the card game "Lucky Nine" at a wake he attended.

Daguhoy said the suspect hacked to death Amado when he came out of their bedroom and saw the suspect in the living room of their single-story house at about 2 a.m. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*



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# Mikey, board reject ₱200-M Lapid loan bid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo and five board members, gathered en banc for a public hearing on Monday, trashed the proposal of Gov. Manuel Lapid to borrow P200 million for infrastructure projects in the run-up to the May 2004 elections.

Arroyo, the eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and board members Robert David, Nestor Dizon, Joseller Guiao, Liberty Lim and Nestor Tolentino rejected the plan after listening to the positions of the Pampanga Employees Union, a taxpayer and planning and finance officials of the capitol.

The 1,800-member capitol employees union, which was supposed to be among the beneficiaries of the loan, submitted two resolutions resisting the proposal.

"Securing another loan appears to be morally wrong considering that it is almost election time and most of the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan are on their last term," said Filipina Calma, union secretary.

The other loan referred to the P140 million that Lapid obtained from the Philippine National Bank in 1997 or during his first term to buy a 40-hectare land in Barangay Maimpis for the mass housing project of the employees.

The controversial purchase earned Lapid a graft case over the alleged discrepancy in capital gains tax paid based only on a P5 million worth of land.

The union, in a letter, decried losing that land when Lapid and the board decided to sell it last year to a subsidiary of the San Miguel Corp.

It reminded the board that the loan with the PNB was cleared only after the Maimpis property was sold. The union earlier opposed the new housing site, a government land in nearby Barangay San Pedro Cutud, which it found not suitable and safe.

Lapid on Monday did not report for work or appeared in the hearing because it fell on the 13th day of the month.

Provincial Administrator Benalfre Galang said Lapid avoids the 13th day of the month because several bad events in his 12-year political career had all occurred on that date.

Interestingly also, the hearing on the P200-million loan plan took place on the same date Lapid had obtained the P140-million loan on Oct. 13, 1997.

Galang clarified it was Board Member Crisostomo Garbo who pushed the loan plan. Lapid, he said, was "supportive" of the projects because the governor wanted these as his "legacy."

Former Gov. Estelito Mendoza and the late Gov. Bren Guiao left savings worth some P60 million and P300 million, respectively.

Provincial budget officer Nida Manalad and provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut told the board they did not know of the loan plan until Friday.

Yabut, compelled by Arroyo, said the provincial government still has P54 million for operations until December this year. Another P100 million was in a time deposit, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

KURATONG BALELENG CASE DISMISSED NA, 4X BUT D' PERSECUTION CONTINUES!
KURATONG BALELEN... DISMI... 4 Times BUT THE PERSECU... CONTINUES
WEAPON POLITICAL VENDETTA

**GALLERY**
Supporters of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who's facing arrest, take to the streets of Davao City to protest what they said was the Macapagal administration's persecution of the former police chief. The protesters held placards denouncing the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO

# Samar execs stop protest action vs gov

CATBALOGAN, Samar—Provincial officials thwarted a protest rally to denounce the alleged corrupt practices of the administration of Samar Gov. Mila Tan.

Provincial lawyer Anastacio Yong on Thursday prevented about 30 protesters belonging to the Concerned Citizens Against Corruption from holding a rally in front of the Capitol for lack of permit.

Yong said that while the protest action was covered by a permit issued by the municipal government, the protesters could not hold it within Capitol grounds because the property is owned by the provincial government.

He added that while he respected the protesters' right to express their sentiments, they would have to abide by legal procedures in staging their mass action.

Pros Lucban was the alleged leader of the rally who applied for the permit from the municipal government.

The rebuke from the Capitol, however, failed to dampen the spirits of the protesters. After assembling outside the Capitol, they went around this town before returning to the Capitol to disperse.

It was the first organized public protest against Tan, after months of brewing unrest among the people, marked by a series of open letters circulated all over the capital town and grievances aired by the various sectors through the media.

The group lambasted Tan for her alleged lack of concern on the sorry plight of the provincial hospital.

They also alleged that Tan tried to bribe officials of the Commission on Audit who had launched an investigation of charges of corruption against the governor.

The protesters, however, failed to present evidence to support their claim.

Tan denied that she gave millions of pesos to the COA representatives from Manila who came here to investigate illegal fund releases in her administration.

Rumors about the alleged corruption had been circulating through text messaging and forwarded to local radio stations. *Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# 11 cops who fought back NPA rebels to get medals

LEGAZPI CITY—The 11 policemen who repulsed about 50 suspected New People's Army rebels who stormed the San Lorenzo Ruiz police station in Camarines Norte (not in Naga City as reported in yesterday's banner headline in this section) on Sunday night will receive Medalya ng Kagalingan medals.

Chief Supt. Jaime Lasar, Philippine National Police Bicol police director, said he will personally go to San Lorenzo Ruiz town anytime this week to visit the town's police station and award the medals to the 11 policemen, including Insp. Rogelio Beraquit, San Lorenzo police chief, who bravely fought back during the more than two hours fierce gunfight with communist guerrillas.

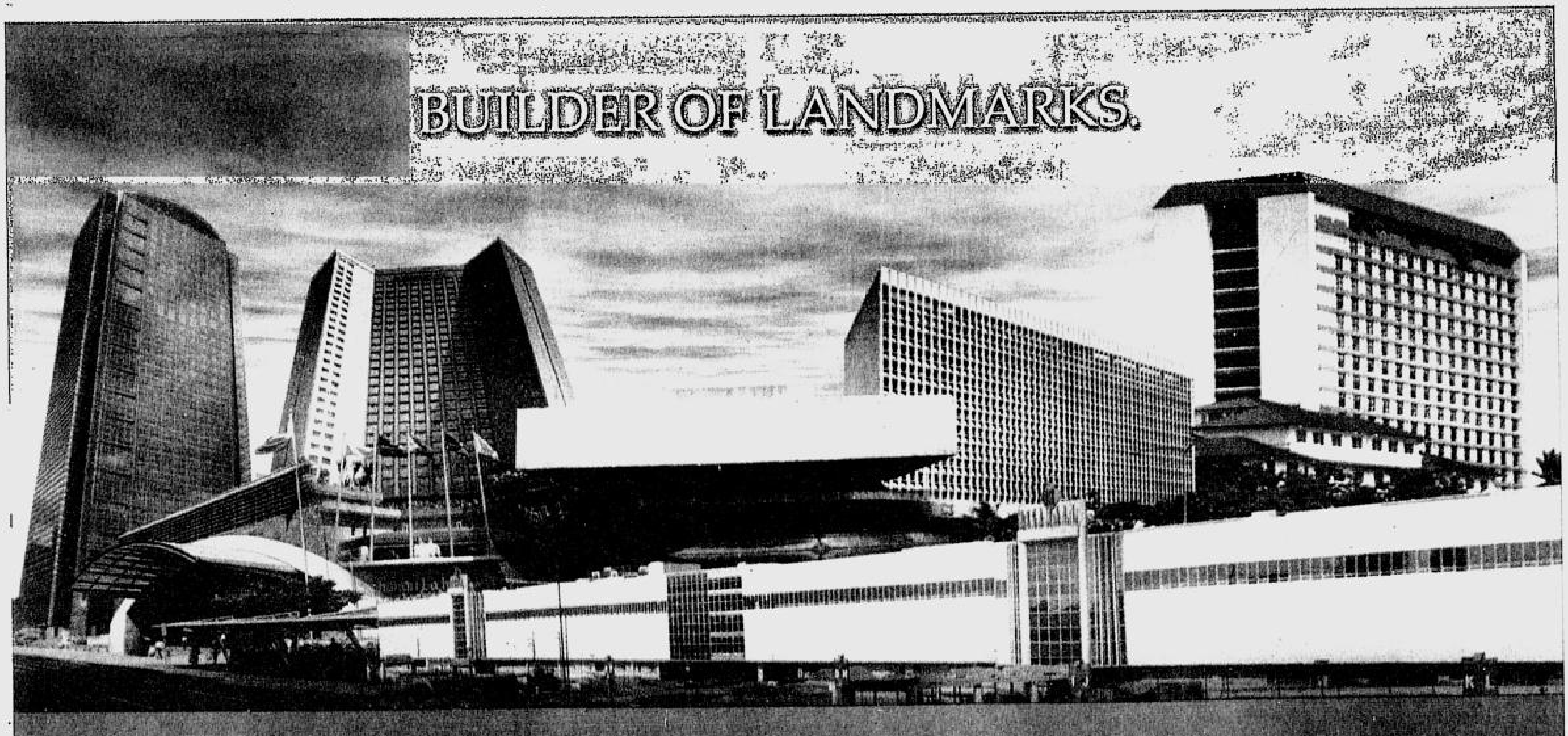
During the exchange of gunfire, PO2 Ireneo Mendoza, who first opened fire upon seeing the attacking rebels, suffered minor injuries due to broken window glasses while SPO4 Elmer Ramores was hit by shrapnel from a grenade launched from an M-203 rifle.

The police station's service vehicle and a private motorcycle were burned when a rifle grenade fired by the communist guerrillas hit the garage of the police station.

Lasar said he would ask the local government of Camarines Norte to donate a replacement for the service vehicle.

Police and Army soldiers are still in hot pursuit of the attacking rebels who fled in different directions.

Lasar instructed all municipal police stations in the province to be on double alert and set up checkpoints, especially in areas where the rebels are expected to withdraw to. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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# Saving the 'Great Candaba Swamp'

**By Tonette Orejas**
*Candaba, Pampanga*

ON SATURDAY morning along the dirt road of Barangay Paligue (part of what local folk call Tagalog region of Candaba town because it is nearer to Bulacan) trudged 70 or so men and women, the oldest being 62 and the youngest about five.

The *magsususo* (shellfish gatherers from Bustos town) and *mangunguryente* (fish catchers using electric rods), their rattan vats half-filled, passed these visitors by, even ogling at those who mounted their telescope or began scanning the horizon through their binoculars.

They parted in five groups, with each quietly venturing into the swamp that spans 28,000 hectares beyond this eastern Pampanga town.

They came to watch the birds and promote the conservation of the Candaba Swamp, one of the country's three major wetlands.

The swamp has also worldwide environmental significance for it is, based on the wisdom of farmers and fisherfolk and scientific studies, a haven of migratory birds.

Nature designed it that way, the country being along the East Asian Flyway, the route of globetrotting birds in the winter months of October up to April, the nature conservation group Haribon said.

But for the country alone, which is home to 556 bird species, at least 44 percent of which are distinct only to the Philippines, this swamp is, undoubtedly, a primary habitat. This is where many species of birds fly, feed, breed and seek refuge against the harsh climate.

That is why Haribon, which began as a bird-watching group in 1972, calls the place the "Great Candaba Swamp."

Because birds and their habitat are strongly connected—a vital but often violated law in the web of life—bird-watching as a hobby is being nurtured among Filipinos to promote an appreciation for conserving nature, said Blas Tabaranza Jr., Haribon's wildlife biologist from the Mindanao State University.

By coming, Joey, one of the youngest enthusiasts, never took too long to realize how wonderful birds are. Although not familiar with the scientific and common names of the birds she saw at this part of the swamp, she confirmed seeing this and that bird by pointing to her illustrated guide sheets. "*Babalik pa rin!*" the girl said, her eyes and smile saying she had fun learning in this adventure.

Supporting the swamp's survival could benefit both people and birds

Tabaranza, one of the few wildlife biologists in the country, said the rapid destruction of forests and wetlands over the last two decades should be stopped now.

"Their survival is our survival," he said of the birds and how they nurture the pockets of nature that produce the water that is essential to people's existence.

Yet, unlike people, the birds are "helpless" and so the solutions are in the hands of the "culprit," the people, Tabaranza said.

## Threats

Saturday's bird-watching was merely the kick-off of the 1st Haribon Bird Festival in October 2004 at the Candaba Swamp, some 50 km north of Metro Manila.

There's a great need to save the swamp and current conservation efforts, like the ban on hunting waterfowls, do not suffice, according to Ed Manango, president of the Candaba Swamp Migratory Birds and Wildlife Foundation.

As a natural flood-basin of Pampanga and Bulacan during the rainy season, the swamp is drained of water earlier than usual for rice farming or aquaculture.

This, Manango said, shortens the time, if not denies the birds the setting with which they could feed, breed and rest. The water lily-like *tukal*, whose buds the birds feast on, is a rare plant these days.

To date, the swamp is still not a declared protected area, with almost all parts of it privately owned, quite a number distributed through agrarian reform.

Cristi Nozawa of Bird Life International said the competition for resources within the swamp by the people and the birds can be reconciled through regulation by the people themselves. Supporting the swamp's survival could benefit both the people and the birds, she said.

Some steps include delaying the draining of water, reduction of chemical agricultural inputs and strong enforcement of the hunting ban for food or hobby.

Manango said his town mates still have not begun eco-tourism as an industry although from October to April many foreigners, mostly from Europe, come for bird-watching.

# A forgotten tribe from a galaxy far, far away

**By Frank Cimatu**
*Baguio City*

ON A slow bus to Tuguegarao, Cagayan, more than 10 years ago, I was seated beside a small man who told the driver that he was stopping at Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya. He said his name is James and he is an I'wak. All the time I thought he said "Ewok" and I always pictured him as one of the Ewoks, those little furry creatures in "Star Wars" with tiny spears and fast low-flying rockets.

**DAYTOY TI AMIANAN**

It was a year later that I learned about the I'waks. There were few literature about I'waks. The most popular was the one written by anthropologist Jesus Peralta for the Filipino Heritage. In that article, Peralta mentioned that the I'waks still subsist on *gabi* or taro tubers.

But three years ago, the Journal of Northern Luzon of the Saint Mary's University in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, published an ethnography of the I'waks. Written by Rayda Joy Castillo, who is herself an I'wak, this 100-page paper brings to fore one of the forgotten tribes in Northern Luzon.

The I'waks have been known through various names by the Spaniards, including Ygyuat, Dumanggi, Alegueses, Alagueses, Gumangi, Jumanggi, Jumanguis, Aua, Awa, Owa, O-ak, Alagot, Yumangi and Dagatan. But even then, the I'waks were known to be *gabi*-eaters.

Their personal belongings, Spaniards then noted, were only their knives and g-string made of bark. I'waks settled mostly in Nueva Vizcaya, particularly in Kayapa town, but Castillo said they can also be found in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, and Bokod, Benguet.

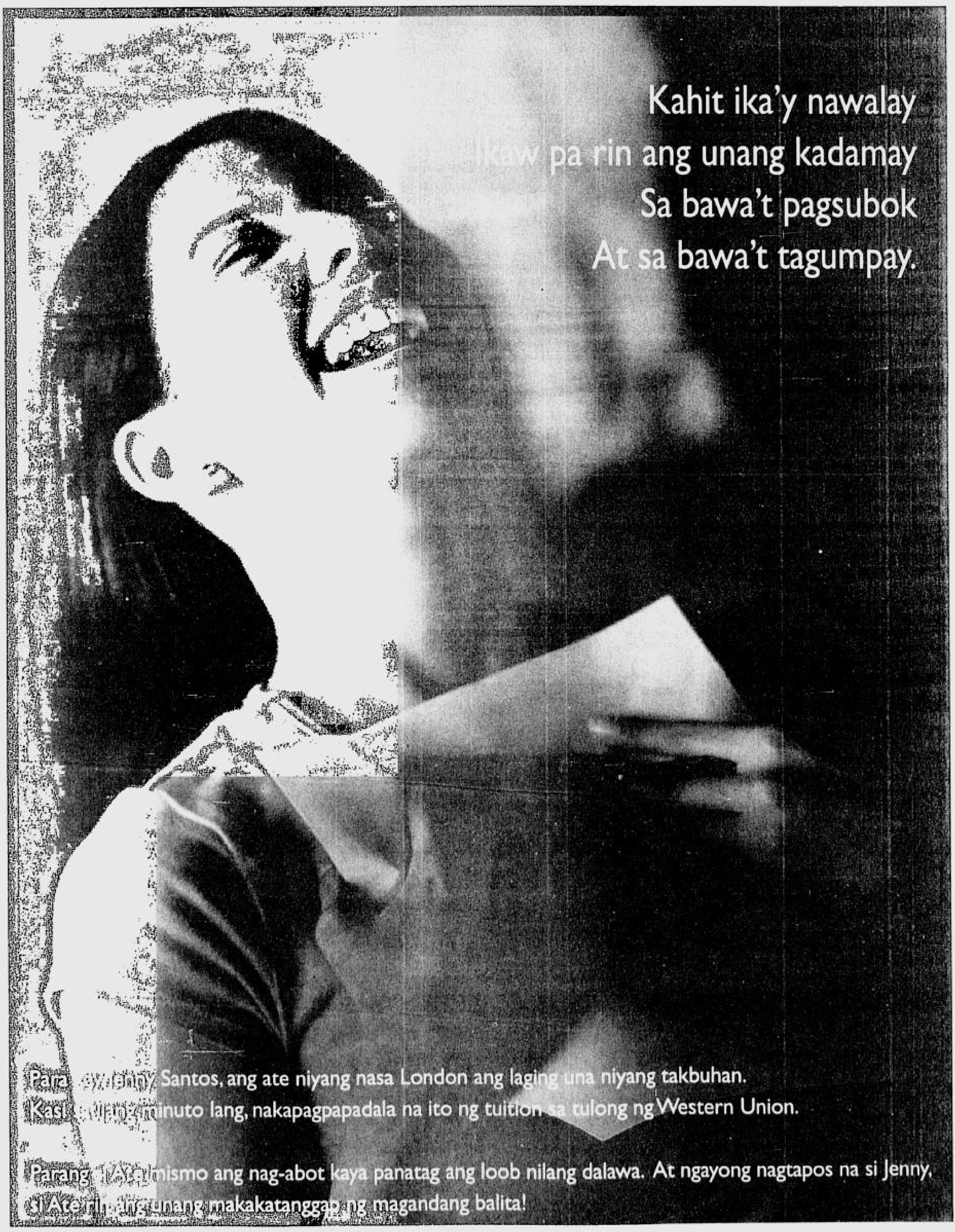
The I'waks have a culture distinct from their neighbors, Castillo said. They are simple folks with only the most basic of furniture and utensils. Every house has a *gangsa* (gong), *salibao* (cylindrical drum), *tiktik* (two iron bars used as counterpoint) and *kalshang* (a four-stringed instrument). Like the Ewoks of Star Wars, they also have a spear known as *khayyang*. As the Spaniards then noted, *gabi* as well as *camote* (sweet potato), rice and peanut are the staple food.

Castillo said the I'waks are doting parents and rarely punish their children. They are the first to be fed during a feast, for example.

Intermediaries or *kalon* are used in courtship and *kaising* or fixed marriages are common then among I'waks, Castillo said. The groom pays for the wedding, which is usually held in the house of the bride.

A ritual called *man-nungaw* allows the young couple to stay in the house of the bride's family for two days to ward off evil and then they both take a bath in a nearby river witnessed by the relatives.

Even when Castillo started her research, she already saw the decline of I'wak culture because of the circle of poverty closing in on them. All her respondents rely only on kaingin or swidden farming for livelihood. Other activities like hog-raising (for the rituals) and vegetable gardening are for their subsistence while rattan gathering, gold panning and tending coffee plantations are irregularly done.



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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# GMA denies policemen executed Al-Ghozi

From page A1

the circumstances surrounding Al-Ghozi's death.

"We believe it's time to move on," Bunye said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., a pro-administration senator who chairs the Senate defense committee, was among those who doubted the police's shootout theory, saying it was too good to be true.

Bunye said the Filipino people were happy that the terrorist was finally accounted for. "We should celebrate this kind of accomplishment by the police instead of them being criticized."

## Police operation

Abaya was evasive when pressed on reports that Al-Ghozi was the victim of a rubout, noting that the shootout was more of a police than a military operation.

"I think I should not comment on that. (PNP Director) General (Hermogenes) Ebdane has already (made a statement on that) and his men who were responsible for the neutralization of (Al-Ghozi)," he told reporters during a chance interview.

"Some elements of the 6th ID (Infantry Division) helped in the earlier operations to arrest Al-Ghozi, but in these actual operations, I think it was mostly members of the Pacer."

Members of the Pacer and the Army's 6th Infantry Division had engaged Al-Ghozi in a shootout after the multi-cab he was riding was flagged down at a checkpoint in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato on Sunday night, according to police reports.

Al-Ghozi died from five bullet wounds, the police said.

Abaya admitted, however, that general headquarters had not obtained an official report from the 6th ID about the incident.

In Camp Crame, Director Ricardo de Leon, the PNP spokesperson, said the rubout theory floated by some politicians was "baseless."

"We're really fond of coming up with stories," De Leon said.

## Pacer narration

To counter speculations of a rubout, the PNP's Pacer unit detailed the events that led to the killing of Al-Ghozi on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, Pacer chief, said that a few hours before the incident, authorities were tipped off by at least three civilian informants that the Indonesian terrorist and a companion would be moving from North Cotabato toward General Santos.

Acting on the "hot information," members from Pacer and the Army's 6th Infantry Division set up several checkpoints along the national highway in Pigcawayan town, Purisima said.

Spotting a multicab similar to what the informants had described, soldiers and policemen flagged down the vehicle, only to be fired at by its occupants, the Pacer chief said.

Authorities, he said, returned before the multicab could pass through one of the security blockades, hitting Al-Ghozi five times.

The line of fire was apparently supported by the wounds found in Al-Ghozi's chest, arms and side of the body.

The alleged companion reportedly escaped.

"The operation was a combination of hard work and of course, luck," Purisima told the INQUIRER. "Even if the tip that we got was very reliable, anything could have still happened and the operation could have still turned out negative."

After he was rearrested last week, Abu Sayyaf member Omar Opik Lasal provided details on where Al-Ghozi could be heading, according to Purisima. "He mentioned Cotabato but that's it. We really had to rely on three informants."

## Terrorist's remains

Al-Ghozi's remains were airlifted to Manila via Air Philippines yesterday morning.

From Manila, the body will be flown to Jakarta, then to Central Java, Indonesia where his family lives.

Asked by the reporters why the cadaver was not transported directly from General Santos to Indonesia, Johannes Manginsela, information chief of the Indonesian consulate office based in Davao City, said that was the instruction he received from his government.

Manginsela claimed he had closely coordinated with the family of Al-Ghozi and that the family reportedly allowed the embalming of the suspect's remains.

According to Islamic belief and tradition, a cadaver is never embalmed and should be buried within 24 hours before sundown.

"All we are doing here had the clearance from the family of Al-Ghozi and Indonesian government," Manginsela said.

The cadaver was placed in a casket before it was put inside a wooden crate.

## MILF appeal

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front appealed to government authorities, especially the Philippine National Police, to refrain from linking the rebel group to Al-Ghozi.

"Dead man tell no tales," Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, told the INQUIRER.

"(Al-Ghozi) was a victim of a rubout," Kabalu insisted, adding that this was the emerging impression among MILF leaders.

"I appeal to the government to cease from linking us to the slain fugitive to preserve the gains of the GRP-MILF peace process," he said.

"It would not help any if the government continues insinuating that we have links with him or any international terror group."

He said the ceasefire between the government and the MILF was, on many occasions, on a verge of collapse due to the Al-Ghozi manhunt controversy.

The government authorities accused the MILF of allegedly providing protection to the suspected Indonesian bomber. *With reports from Cynthia Balana, Philip Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria; Aquiles Zonio, Edwin Fernandez and Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP*

# Recaptured . . .

From page A1

when he was no longer with the group, he kept on giving tips to the authorities whenever bandits were seen in Kapayawan.

"I also have a cousin who is an informer of the military," he said.

In 1999, when he sensed that the Abu Sayyaf was beginning to suspect that he was an informer, he said he went to Malaysia to work in a plantation.

But in 2000, he returned to Basilan and was again sought by the group, this time led by Aldam Tilao, alias Abu Sabaya.

In Sabaya's group, Lasal was part of the strike force armed with M-203s.

He said he joined the Abu Sayyaf because his brother, whom he described as another military intelligence asset, urged him.

"Wherever we went, the military knew our whereabouts, because I was giving them the information," he said. "*DPA kasi ako sa Abu Sayyaf* (That's because I'm a DPA in the Abu Sayyaf)."

## Financial support

Lasal said he received financial support from the military, on top of what he received from the Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

"Sometimes P10,000. Sometimes P5,000.. But the money went straight to my family."

Because he was a DPA, he said, he hardly saw his family. "The last time I saw them was June 2002. I haven't seen them since."

Lasal said he served as the eyes and ears of the AFP when the three detainees bolted jail in July.

While they were moving around from Sorsogon to Lanao del Norte, Lasal said, "I was the one who made several calls to my contacts in Basilan, that led to the tracing of our whereabouts in Lanao."

He said he intentionally left "traces" for the military to find, "so they could recapture Al-Ghozi. But maybe because there was a lack of coordination, they found me instead."

Lasal was recaptured in Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur, on Oct. 8.

He admitted that Al-Ghozi's death had something to do with his revelations to his interrogators.

"Maybe what I said leaked out. That's why he was caught," Lasal said in an interview conducted almost wholly in Filipino.

## State witness?

Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron of the Department of Justice said he was contemplating using Lasal as a state witness.

"He was brought here by the military with the request to evaluate his testimony ... or if there is a possibility of utilizing him as a witness for the government," Cabaron said.

On Friday afternoon, Lasal casually walked inside the Hall of Justice at Petit Barracks without any handcuffs on. He was accompanied by only one escort.

Cabaron said Lasal's statement could be used, if the bandit-turned-DPA would fully cooperate.

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What Drives You CALTEX

# SC: Ping conclusion illogical

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

THE SPOKESPERSON of the Supreme Court yesterday said Sen. Panfilo Lacson was being illogical when he invoked "judicial politics" as the basis of the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"These are mere allegations that have no proof. He reached an illogical conclusion," said Assistant Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr.

To Lacson's declaration in a privilege speech Monday that he was tempted to fight judicial politics on his own terms and "outside the rotten justice system," Khan said: "That sounds disturbing, especially coming from a senator."

Khan pointed out that the vote on the case was not unanimous, with eight justices voting for its reopening and four voting against.

He said the four who voted on April 1 against the tribunal's ruling to reopen the case—Justices Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Consuleo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez—maintained their position.

He also said Malacañang's most recent appointees did not even take part in the deliberations: Justices Antonio Carpio and Dante Tinga inhibited themselves, while Justice Renato Coron was on leave.

"So how can you say that there is judicial politics? The members of the court are very independent-minded," he said.

Khan said the tribunal ordered the re-raffle of the case because there was still no designated heinous-crimes court in Quezon City when the case was initially filed.

"Now there are [such courts]," Khan said. "So the court deemed that it would be best to assign the case to one of them."

In his speech, Lacson also challenged the justices to a debate on their ruling.

But lawyer Conrad Tolentino, Khan's deputy at the high court's Public Information Office, said there was no "intelligent answer" to this.

Tolentino said the challenge was made during a privilege speech, and that Lacson should be allowed to express his own opinions.

Khan earlier assailed Lacson for alleging that the tribunal was in cahoots with Malacañang when it ruled on the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"This could be part of a concerted effort to undermine the integrity of the judiciary," Khan said on Thursday.

# 17 cops in Kuratong case report ...

From page A1

been accounted for," Chief Supt. Alfredo de Vera, director of the Headquarters Support Service (HSS), told reporters yesterday.

De Vera said that 15 of the co-accused went to Camp Crame Monday, and that Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, one of the principals, phoned Friday to say he would show up at the camp any time this week.

"I think he [Zubia] is in the province," De Vera said.

He said SPO4 Virgilio Paragas reported by 'phone to the chief of the HSS holding center also on Friday.

Since then, Zubia and the other Kuratong Baleleng suspects had been reporting to the HSS, he said.

But as of 4:30 p.m. yesterday, Zubia had yet to report, according to officers at the HSS holding center. He last logged in 2:15 p.m. Monday.

Zubia and company surfaced after the Philippine National Police threatened Wednesday to declare them Awol (absent without leave).

"Our mission was to account for them. They're now reporting, so they won't be Awol anymore," De Vera said.

He also said reporting by phone would be sufficient for officers to be accounted for.

However, certain HSS officers do not agree with this view.

"They really have to be physically present. But it's hard to oblige them because they're generals and ranking officials," an officer said.

The other suspects now accounted for are Senior Superintendents Zorobabel Laureles, Gil Meneses and Almario Hilario, Supt. Jose Villacorte, Chief Inspectors Ceasar Tannagan and Ricardo Dandan, SPO4 Angelito Caisip, SPO4 Willy Nuas, SPO4 Antonio Frias, SPO2 Roberto Agbalog and SPO1 Osmondo Cariño Jr.

Supt. Joselito Esquivel Jr. is assigned at the United Nations mission in Kosovo, while Supt. Rolando Anduyan, PO3 Alejandro Liwanag and PO3 Norberto Lasaga Jr. are with the PNP anti-illegal drugs task force.

Dismissal proceedings are under way for Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Supt. Glenn Dumlao, SPO4 Cicero Bacolod, SPO4 Rolando Jimenez and SPO3 Cecilio Morito.

Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, PO3 Reynaldo Las Piñas and PO3 Leonardo Gloria were dismissed in June.

## Two minors

With the confirmation that two of the 11 alleged Kuratong Baleleng members killed on May 18, 1995, were minors, the Department of Justice has asked the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to re-raffle the case to a family court.

State Prosecutor Peter Ong said the DOJ received on Monday morning the birth certificates showing that Sherwin Abalora and Melcubren Soronda were 17 and 14, respectively, at the time of their death.

He said the birth certificates came all the way from Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte.

Ong cited Republic Act No. 8369, the act creating family courts, which states that these special courts have "exclusive, original jurisdiction" over cases involving victims who are minors.

"There is no qualification. If the victim is a minor, it is automatic for the case to go to the family court," Ong said.

He said the Quezon City RTC had seven family courts but that one was vacant. "The case should be raffled to any of the six," he said.

The prosecution claims that police arrested Abalora and Soronda along with six other suspected gang members on the night of May 17, 1995, in Superville Subdivision, Parañaque City.

They were found dead the following day with nine other alleged gang members on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. Abalora had three bullet wounds, and Soronda, five.

## 'In desperation'

But in a joint statement, Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. deplored the DOJ move for a re-raffle of the case to a family court.

They said the department was "acting in desperation" and that its move was "a clear indication that the prosecution feels threatened."

Ong said the prosecution was not immediately able to point out that a family court should try the case because it did not have the birth certificates.

"Things moved so fast" after the Supreme Court dismissed Lacson's motion for reconsideration and upheld its ruling that the case should be reopened, Ong said.

The high court had also ordered the re-raffle of the case to a special court dealing with heinous crimes.

The Quezon City RTC conducted the raffle on Thursday and the case ended up with Branch 81 Judge Theresa Yadao, who handled the case when it was filed in June 2001.

Private prosecutors, among them Arno Sanidad, protested that the raffle was not done correctly because the Kuratong Baleleng case was lumped with three other pending criminal cases, and only one raffle was conducted.

Sanidad said the Kuratong Baleleng case should have been raffled separately.

But Sotto, Angara and Pimentel said: "This is a clear case of forum-shopping, which is a punishable act. Why are they floating the issue only now? What are they afraid of?"

## TRO

Ong said he was not present at the Thursday raffle.

He said the prosecution was unable to move for the case's transfer to a family court in June 2001 because the defense secured a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals, which barred Yadao from conducting further hearings on the case.

"We could not move," Ong said. "We were practically left just sitting down. Two years ago, we were barraged with TROs and certiorari left and right."

Ong said the prosecution was prepared for the delay that its motion would cause. Earlier, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the prosecution was after the immediate issuance of warrants of arrest on Lacson and his co-accused.

"We'd rather suffer from a short delay now rather than ... later," Ong said, adding that he had nothing against Yadao.

# PCSO says records open to auditors

From page A1

to any feeding program as it was spent on the the President's campaign streamers.

Ancheta said the P2 million that the senator was talking about was intended for the feeding program for poor communities. Out of the P2 million, only P600,000 was released in July, benefiting about 28,000 people in Metro Manila.

Ancheta said Board Resolution No. 395, Series of 2003, supported the release of the P600,000 from the PCSO charity fund for the feeding program.

"Even he (Lacson) was seeking for assistance from this institution through endorsements," he told reporters.

Lakas Pinoy president Nathan Zulueta said Lacson's exposé against the organization was a "combination of half-truths and outright lies."

"This is the worst kind of politicking and speaks volumes about his desperation to be the next president," Zulueta said.

He said that funds for the Lakas Pinoy feeding program did not come solely from the PCSO. Most of its funding requirements come from private contributions, according to Zulueta.

He said funds for the streamers and posters shown by Lacson in his privilege speech amounted only to P60,000, which came from private contributions.

Opposition senators said Ms Macapagal could be impeached if she approved the release of P2 million to the Gawin Natin Lakas Pinoy Movement, and of P500,000 to a golf tournament sponsored by her husband.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Edgardo Angara and Luisa Ejercito-Estrada said in separate interviews that the illegal disbursements were tantamount to graft, an impeachable offense.

"This is now directly charging the President with wrongdoing, and if not properly explained it could even lead to her impeachment," Pimentel said.

He called on Ms Macapagal to "explain the circumstances under which these disbursements were done, and not rely only on her spokesperson to do it."

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*Editor* **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

# Cops all set for Bush visit

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

POLICE units in Metro Manila appear all set for the arrival on Saturday of US President George W. Bush.

Each of the five police districts have been handed out their security assignments during a recent meeting of the district directors with National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco.

Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said he has been tasked with securing the perimeter of Malacañang Palace, the Pandacan oil depot and the Rizal Park.

The security around the US Embassy, which is along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, would be the responsibility of the Northern Police District.

The NPD has been asked to help Manila because there are no crucial targets located in Northern Metro Manila, explained Bulaong.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport, where Bush would reportedly land, would be secured by the Southern Police District.

The Central Police District would be keeping watch on the area around the Batasan complex, where Mr. Bush would address a joint session of Congress.

The historic Edsa Shrine, a favorite venue for protest actions, would be secured by the Eastern Police District.

Militant groups are expected to hold massive rallies when Bush arrives (See report below).

But Bulaong said the no permit, no rally policy would be observed on Saturday.

### Traffic plans

Police have initial plans to close down a long stretch of Roxas Boulevard in Manila as part of security measures for Mr. Bush.

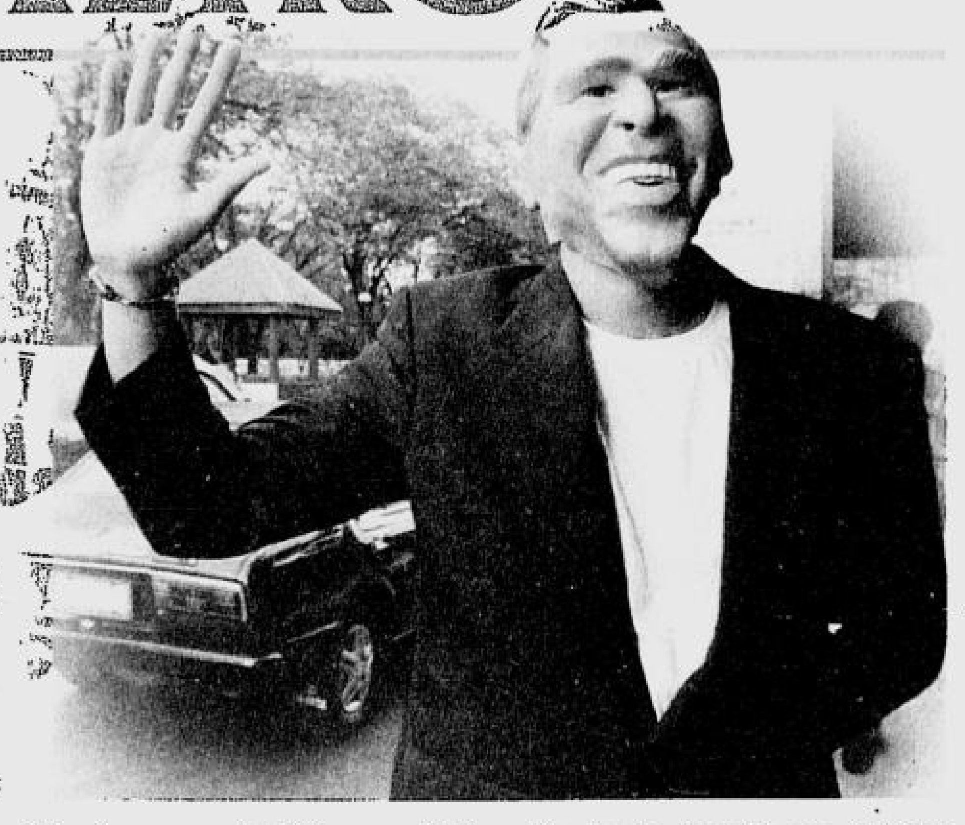
But Bulaong said the public would not be prevented from enjoying themselves at the baywalk along Manila Bay on Saturday.

He said the possibility of troublemakers launching operations from the baywalk has been taken into consideration.

Because of this, he said, they would send additional operatives in the baywalk area, including K-9 units.

Bulaong also claimed traffic flow along Roxas Boulevard would only be affected when the convoys of Mr. Bush or President Macapagal-Arroyo pass through there.

"Priority to the presidential convoy would be given," he said.



**A PROTESTER wearing a Bush mask makes a scene during a rally at the Batasan complex on Monday.**
JOAN BONDOC

# Anti-Bush protests continue

**By Martin P. Marfil**

MILITANT groups continued their anti-Bush protests yesterday as Oct. 18, the day of the arrival of US President Bush, neared.

Militant fisherfolk swam in the waters of Manila Bay while urban poor members trooped to Mendiola to protest the demolition of shanties for the arrival of Bush.

At the same time, victims of toxic waste contamination—most of them former workers at the bases and their families—vowed to join the protests to press the US government to recognize their plight.

"We are now experiencing the effects of contamination, 30 to 40 years after we worked in the bases… Members of our families have also been affected,'" Braulio Pabillare, a former supervisor at the Ship Repair Facility in Subic, said.

Pabillare spoke at a press conference organized by the People's Task Force for Bases Clean-Up.

Armando Rivero, a victim of the Mount Pinatubo eruption and one of those relocated by the government into the Cabcom area in Clark, said that water from shallow wells had been contaminated with mercury, nitrate lead, oil and grease.

In that area in Pampanga, he said that 328 children and adults have toxic-related illnesses like cerebral-palsy, kidney disorders, tumors, blood diseases, deformities and delayed development.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno, for its part, anounced that it would start the burning of American flags today at the Welcome rotonda in Quezon City.

The 12-by-18-foot flag would be burned as part of the protest against the arrival of Bush.

Militants earlier said that they would be burning American flags aside from street actions for the coming of the US President.

Government forces had been placed on alert for the protests and the Bureau of Immigration yesterday warned foreigners against joining the protests.

# Residents near Batasan area decry demolition of shanties

**By Tina Santos**

AT LEAST 500 homes of poor families located near the Batasan complex have been demolished as part of the preparation for US President George W. Bush's visit on Saturday.

Bush's entourage will drive along this stretch when he goes to the Batasan complex to speak before Congress.

The residents claimed that the demolition crew came in as early as Sunday afternoon and started tearing down their shanties.

"We were surprised at the presence of demolition crews that carried crowbars and started hammering away our houses," claimed Sandy Sentero, 36.

According to Lerma Centeno, 29, families whose houses were taken apart were loaded into trucks and carried off to a relocation site in San Mateo. But, she claimed, local government officials of Rizal did not accept them because they had allegedly not been notified of the relocation.

"The demolition crew who took us there just threw our things onto the pavement and immediately left to get another batch of families from the demolition site," Centeno said.

# First 20 footbridges being built

**By Margaux Ortiz**

TWENTY footbridges meant to help pedestrians cross clearways safely are now being constructed, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

He told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday that 10 of these would be finished and installed before Christmas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier approved the release of P100 million for the construction of footbridges on thoroughfares where the clearway scheme is being implemented such as Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, C-5, Edsa and Marcos Highway.

Fernando assured the public that the installation of footbridges would not hamper traffic.

He said that after laying out the structures' cement foundation on the roadsides, they would install the steel footbridges at midnight to prevent traffic jams.

"The main bulk of the structure would be fabricated at the shops to avoid a delay in the installation," Fernando said.

The footbridges would be three meters wide, accommodating around four people walking side by side at a given time.

He said the structures have waist-high sides, to prevent people from falling off the footbridges.

While waiting for the installation of the footbridges, Fernando appealed the motorists and pedestrians crossing the clearways to take notice of the still operational signal lights.

He said they should learn to use the pedestrian buttons so they could signal vehicles to stop for them.

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# 14 suspects in Basilan kidnapping freed

By Luige del Puerto

A COURT yesterday ordered the release of 14 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf group after state prosecutors failed to prove their alleged involvement in the abduction of 52 public school teachers and students in a Basilan town three years ago.

In a two-page ruling, Judge Agnes Carpio of Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 261 likewise dismissed the kidnapping charges filed against the 14 suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

The state prosecutor's 11 witnesses failed to identify any of the accused as among those who took them hostage in Barangay Tumahubong, Sinangkapan town, Basilan on March 20, 2000.

All the 14 accused are currently detained in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig with 90 other suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get the names of the 14 suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

In her ruling, Carpio also ordered the government to pay the accused P1,000 each for the time they spent in detention.

Court stenographer Eymard Eje said 17 detainees were originally set for release, but one had died while in detention, while two others have pending cases before another Pasig City court.

The judge handed down the decision after defense lawyer Pura Calleja-Ferrer urged the court to resolve the cases against the accused after the prosecution had rested its case, Eje said.

Court records showed that the case against the 14 accused was first handled by Judge Leili Acebo. The case, however, was raffled off after defense lawyers pointed out that two of the accused were minors at the time of the kidnapping.

A month after the 2000 abduction, two of the teachers, Dante Uban and Nelson Enriquez, were ordered beheaded by Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani and spokesperson Abu Sabaya as a "birthday gift" to then President Joseph Estrada.

Some of the hostages were later freed in exchange for food, but three teachers—Anabelle Mendoza, Editha Lumame and Ruben Democrito—were later tortured and executed. Their bodies were recovered after an encounter between government soldiers and the bandits in May 2000.

In September this year, two members of the Abu Sayyaf who allegedly took part in the Basilan kidnapping, were arrested.

The two, who each carried a P1-million reward, were identified as Salasim Suhud, alias "Abu Talib," 29, and his brother Asirin Suhud, alias "Popong," 20.

The case of alleged Abu Sayyaf leaders Hector Janjalani and his younger sibling, Khadaffy, prime suspects in the abduction of American Jeffrey Schilling, is still being heard by Judge Alex Quiros of Branch 156.

Schilling, an American Muslim kidnapped in Zamboanga City in August 2000, was able to escape from his Abu Sayyaf captors in April 2001.

# Lopez: What Alvarez did was foul

By Margaux Ortiz

"WHAT he did was foul."

This was what businessman Jorge Alfredo Lopez III had to say about former basketball star Paul "Bong" Alvarez, whom he claimed he caught in bed with his wife last week.

Lopez, 26, of Barangay Magallanes, Makati City, yesterday filed charges of adultery and grave threats against his wife Sarah Jane Devendorf-Lopez, 23, and Alvarez, 35, before the Makati Prosecutors' Office.

Alvarez had denied the whole incident, saying that Lopez's complaint was merely a "tall tale."

Lopez said he caught Sarah and Alvarez in a naked embrace inside the master's bedroom when he went home with two friends Thursday morning.

Lopez's friend Bernard Robles, also filed an attempted homicide case against Sarah, who allegedly stabbed him in the wrist with a kitchen knife when he tried to pacify the couple.

LOPEZ and his wife, Sarah, in happier times.

Lopez, who had earlier declared his intention to run for councilor for Makati's fourth district, said he was not pushing through with his political plans anymore.

"I cannot run for office with this scandal holding us," Lopez told reporters. "I will just concentrate on getting back my kids from (Sarah)."

Lopez also said that his family is quite well off and in fact owns a bar, a construction firm and 16 buildings in Manila, contrary to allegations that he was living off Sarah's money.

He also clarified that they were renting the Magallanes house, with Sarah's mother paying their monthly dues.

"Sarah and I are not separated… I have been going home to that house for the last six months," Lopez stressed.

Lopez added that he was willing to drop the case against Sarah if she gives their children to him.

PO1 Evangeline Babor said that they went to Sarah's house on Monday to get her side, but Sarah refused to comment on the issue.

# Gunmen had score to settle with clinic owners, cops say

THE THREE men who broke into the Three Mary's Clinic in Manila last week, wounding two persons in the attack, might have wanted to settle a score with the owners, according to investigators.

P03 Gordius Alumbro said the three men who stormed the lying-in clinic on Pureza Street in Sampaloc, "were looking for the owners."

But the owners—Dr. Eliza Yu and Col. William Yu, himself a doctor at the V. Luna Hospital—could not think of anyone who might want to harm them, police said.

Investigators yesterday said that Alma Janda, the midwife wounded in last week's attack, died on Saturday at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

The other victim, Roseller Magallanes, is recovering in an undisclosed hospital. Police are keeping a tight watch on Magallanes, fearing that the gunmen may want to silence him. *Leila Salaverria*

## METROBRIEFS

### Sentenced

PASAY City Judge Vicente Yap yesterday meted out death terms to Antonio Uy and Ricky Ladlana for killing three men during a robbery two years ago. According to court records, the two men broke into the Jeepney Shopping Center on Taft Avenue, Pasay on June 27, 2001 and ransacked the jewelry stores inside. They stole jewelry worth over P300,000 and killed Gilbert Esmaquilan, security guard Felix Aranez and janitor Delfin Binlahan. Yap, of Regional Trial Court Branch 114, also ordered the two men to pay the victims' families a total of P50,000 in damages. *Alcuin Papa*

### Robbed

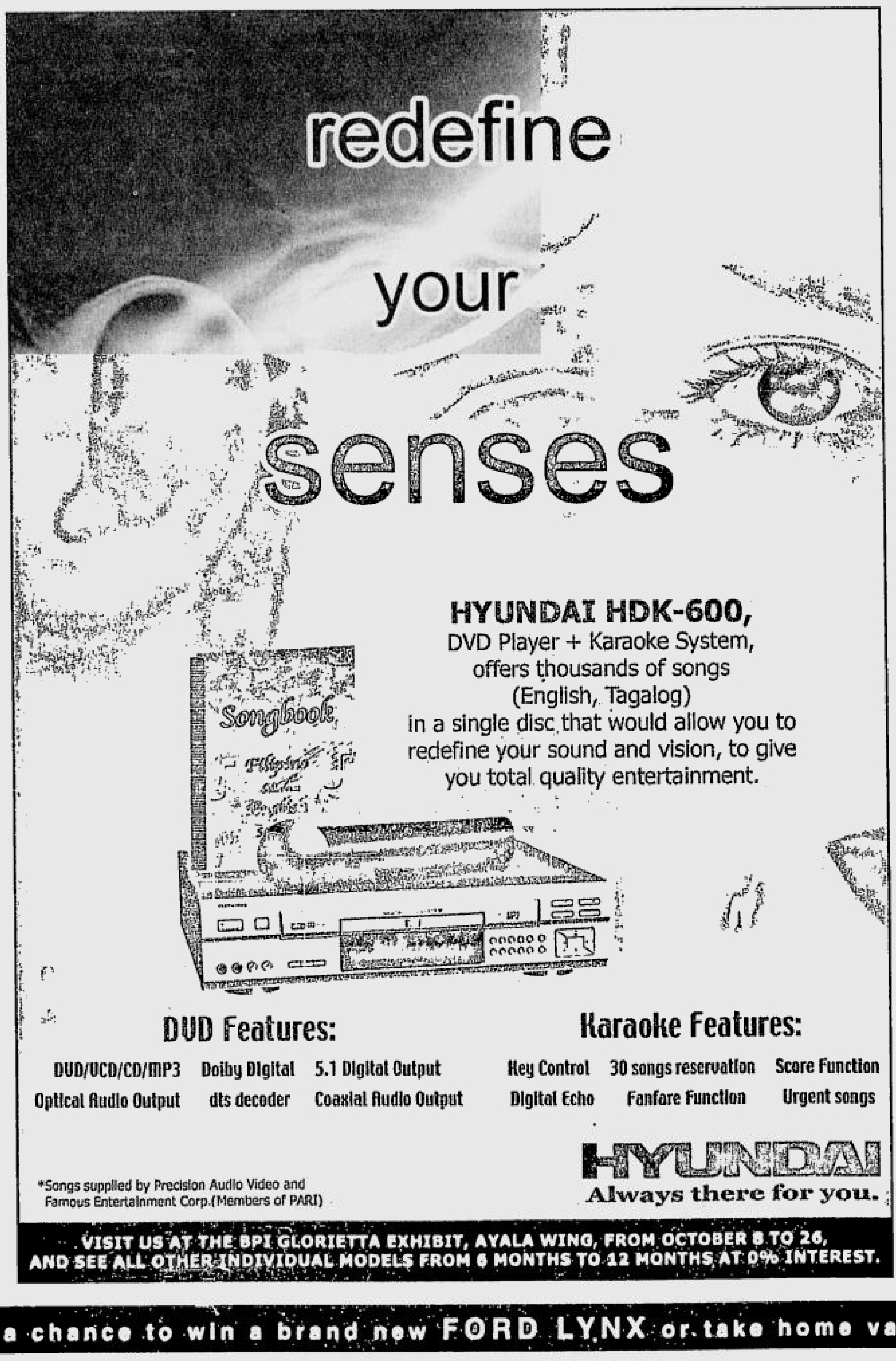
VICENTE Angcog was killed while another man was seriously injured during a robbery in Parañaque City Monday night. Angcog, of Western Bicutan, Taguig, was on his way home on board the jeepney of his cousin, Rico Balanza, when the still unidentified culprit announced a holdup along the East Service Road, Barangay San Martin De Porres at 7:45 p.m. SPO1 Rodolfo Balacuay suspected that the victims put up a fight, forcing the robber to shoot the two. Balanza, 33, is now being treated at the Pasig City General Hospital. *Alcuin Papa*

### Escape

DRUG suspect Josie Martinez on Monday night managed to evade pursuing lawmen. Members of a Caloocan drug enforcement unit laid a trap for Martinez in Daang Bakal, Tondo, Manila, after they learned that she has been supplying drug peddlers in one area. During the buy-bust, a neighbor warned the suspect that there were policemen in the area. Martinez disappeared in a dark alley. When police tried to run after her, they were stopped by a man who introduced himself as a barangay official. It turned out that the official was Martinez's father, Bernardo. At the station, Bernardo refused to tell the police where his daughter was. But Bernardo promised them that he would talk to his daughter to convince her to give up the drug trade. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

### Zambo bash

FIESTA na Rancho Grande will be the motif of a jam session and dinner at the La Hermandad Zamboangueña's 43rd anniversary celebration on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club, Barrio Oranbo, Pasig City (near Ultra). The activity also commemorates the Fiesta of La Virgen de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, a special event in Zamboanga City. Composed of Zamboangueños based in Metro Manila, La Hermandad maintains a scholarship program for high school graduates. For inquiries, please call Lalaine Ramos Ylaya at 842-0168, Deanna Macasil at 822-3245 to 48, or Nene Lopez Tan at 807-9604.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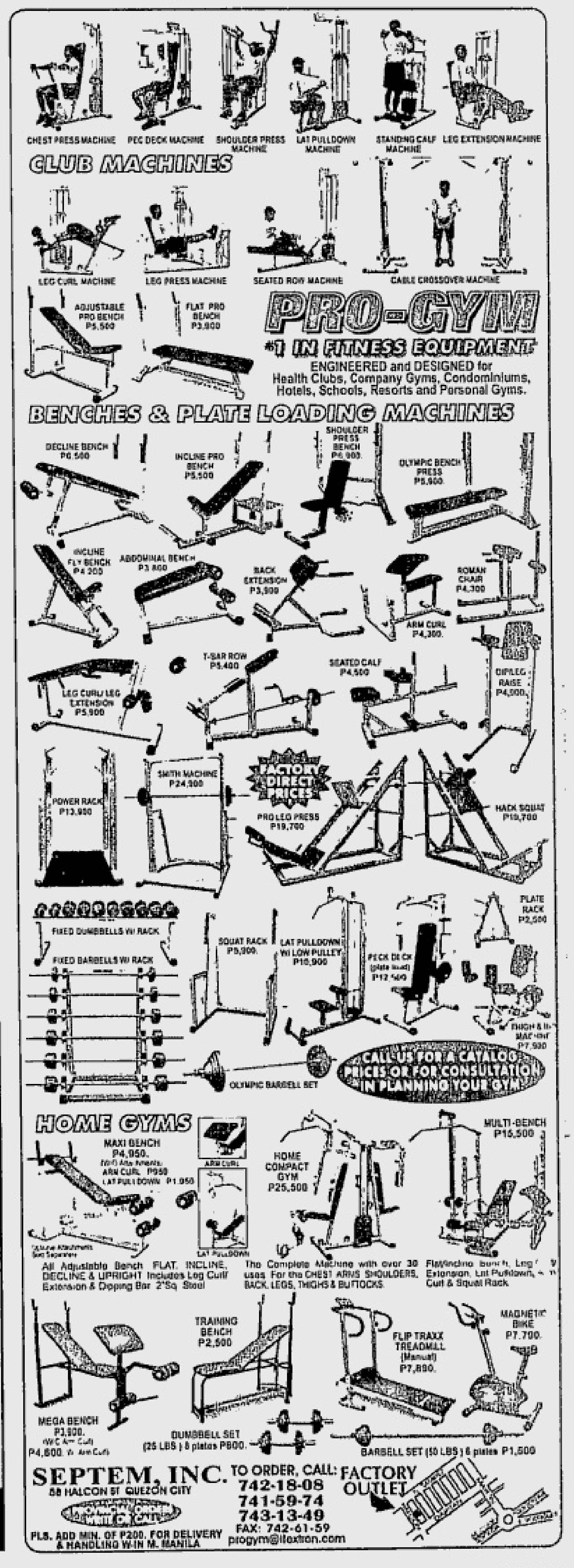
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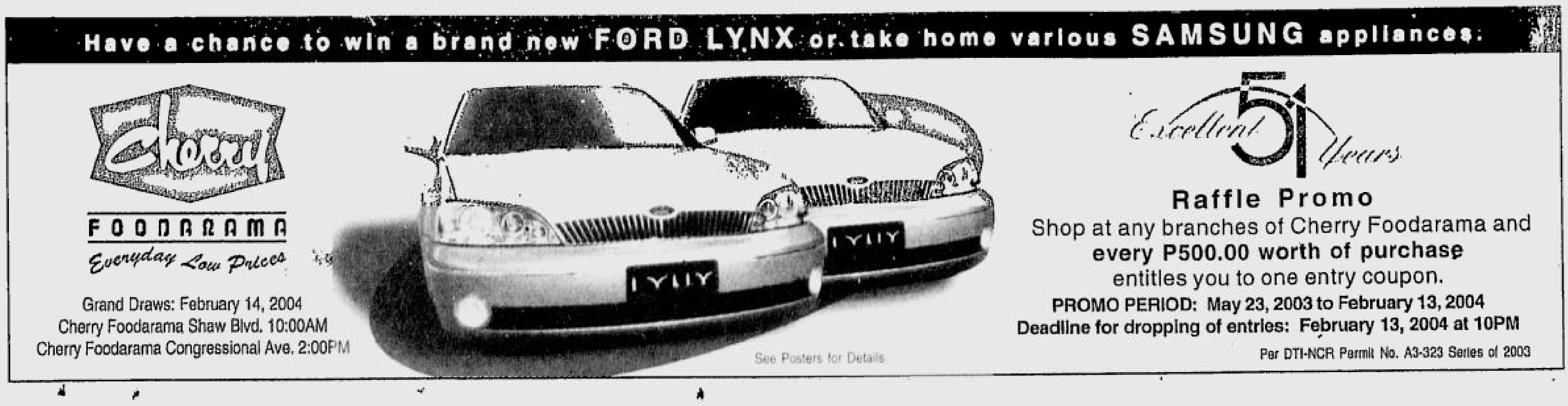
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## LIMPOT CASE

# Eala blasts GAB ruling

**EALA:** Why is this thing (GAB resolution) done at this time?

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5 p.m.—Ginebra vs. Talk 'N Text
7:30 p.m.—Shell vs Coca-Cola

AN ACT of saving face at the expense of the PBA.

Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala declared this yesterday as he slammed the Games and Amusements Board for a resolution declaring Ginebra player Jun Limpot did not flunk the mandatory drug test of the league several months ago.

"It's unfortunate that the decision of the GAB came out at a time when the case of (Jun) Limpot is already a closed book and he has already been reinstated," said Eala, wondering why the decision has been released just now.

In its resolution announced Monday, the GAB claimed that the PBA Commissioner's Office did not exercise due process in the case of Limpot, who had been indefinitely suspended by the league after traces of banned substance had been found in his urine sample.

"Action of the PBA finding the appellant (Limpot) positive for the use of shabu and imposing the penalty of immediate and indefinite suspension is reversed and set aside," the GAB said in its ruling, dated Sept. 28.

The PBA maintained that Limpot and seven other players who failed the drug test were never considered drug dependents. Limpot was reinstated on Sept. 4.

"Why is this thing done at this time?" Eala asked. "I'm afraid this is being done to embellish their image at a time when they are being criticized for certain activities in boxing at the expense of the PBA.

"Otherwise, why didn't they make public their decisions on the other players?" Eala said.

According to Eala, the GAB found one of the players guilty after it withdrew its appeal.

"The decision of the GAB is unfair to the PBA. It was made with abuse of discretion because the PBA was never made a party to the hearings. We were not informed as to the appeal of these players, we were not informed as to our capacity/involvement in the inquiry, whether we are respondents, accused or whatever capacity," Eala noted.

"It was also made in excess of its jurisdiction as the GAB enjoys only supervisory functions and not control of the PBA."

In the same breath, PBA legal counsel Melvin Mendoza pointed out that the authority of the GAB over the PBA under PD No. 871 is merely supervisory and regulatory.

Limpot, for his part, said he is not entertaining thoughts of suing the PBA or appealing his case with the GAB. He said he owes "half of my life" to the PBA.

"*Hindi ko sana naabot ang* status *ko* as a player ngayon kung wala ang PBA," he said.

Meanwhile, Limpot and the Ginebra Gin Kings try to halt their slide when they collide with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at 5 p.m. today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The Coca-Cola Tigers shoot for the first quarterfinal slot in Group B in the second game at 7 p.m. against the Shell Turbochargers. *With a report from June Navarro*

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# Santia-Enema leads PGAP Team Challenge

COURSE record-holder Vic Santia teamed up with Rudy Enema for a bestball score of six-under-par 66 yesterday and a slim one-shot lead in the PGAP Two-Man Team Challenge at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Santia, who owns one of the two 64s posted at the military layout, and Enema made the last of their six birdies for the day on the 18th to inch ahead of teams bannered by the Ababas in the tourney using the World Cup format.

Cesar Ababa joined hands with Ramil Bisera while his elder brother Edgar worked in tandem with Ebarra Quiachon in shooting 67s to forge a three-way tie for second with the pair of Danny Fortusa-Oscar Colminas.

The favorites were within striking distance going into tomorrow's final round where play shifts to alternate shots.

Brothers Juanito and Rey Pagunsan led the group at 68, Cassius Casas-Roel Banares headed a pack at 69 and Tony Lascuña-Vince Lauron was among those at 71.

Cuello struck a 323-yard drive to surpass Benjie Magada's 304 for the prize put up by the event's Korean benefactors from the United States Golf Teaching Federation.

# UAAP-NCAA benefit games on

GAMES TODAY (Ateneo gym)
1:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
2 p.m.—Letran vs Adamson
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs UE

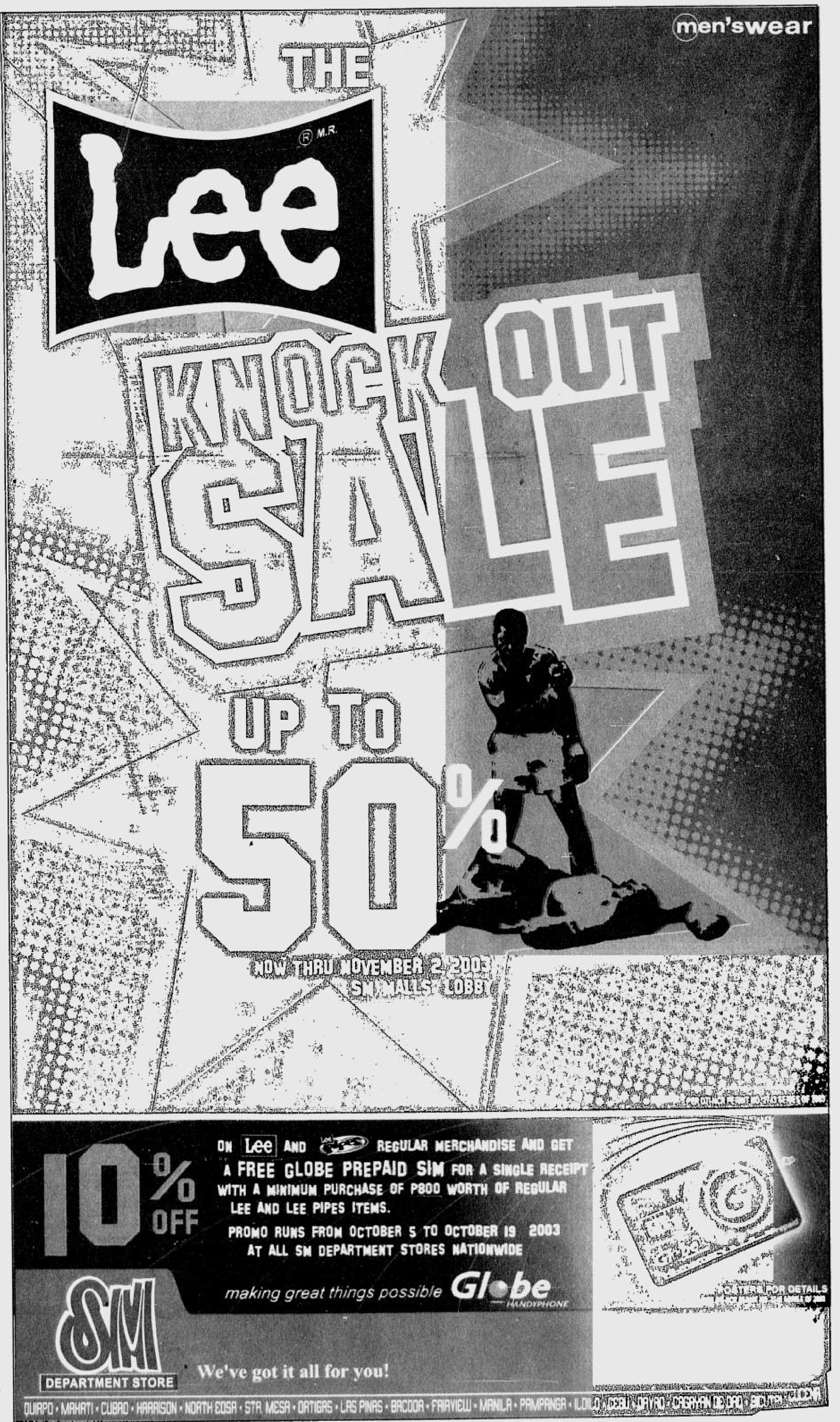
NATIONAL Collegiate Athletic Association champion Letran battles Adamson at 2 p.m. today in the first knockout match of the UAAP-NCAA Benefit Games at the Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City.

University of the East, champion of the inaugural Bantay Bata Showdown last year, tangles with Jose Rizal University in another sudden-death game at 4 p.m.

The Bantay Bata has been UE's source of redemption. In 2002, UE reached the UAAP Final Four with a twice-to-beat edge but lost on a prayer tossed in by Ateneo's Gec Chia. The Warriors exacted revenge when they swept the Blue Eagles in the Bantay Bata Finals.

Adamson replaced UAAP runner-up Ateneo, which withdrew because the event runs in conflict with the school's final examinations.

Other teams in the tournament are UAAP champion Far Eastern, NCAA runner-up San Sebastian, Mapua and De La Salle.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## Gatchalian 2nd in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Filipino bowler Joonee Gatchalian fought hard before bowing to Wu Siu-hong of Hong Kong in the men's final of the first leg of the 2003 Aviva Asian Bowling Tour here.

Wu's bagger in the last few frames sealed his victory against Gatchalian in the close contest, 249-236.

Wu won US$5,000 in the first stop of the eight-country event.

Gatchalian forged a championship showdown with Wu beating fellow Philippine bet Purvis Granger, in the semifinals, 244-238.

The best teams of the UAAP & NCAA come together for one final battle...
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UAAP/NCAA BENEFIT GAMES
The SHOWDOWN for
ABS-CBN BANTAY BATA 163

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:
UAAP- FEU, UE, DLSU, ADU
NCAA- CSJL, SSC-R, JRU, MIT

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15 (ELIMINATIONS) ATENEO GYM

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1:30 PM | OPENING CEREMONIES | | | |
| 2:00 PM | Grp. B | CSJL | vs. | ADU |
| 4:00 PM | Grp. C | JRU | vs | UE |

THURSDAY, OCT.16 (ELIMINATIONS) ARANETA COLISEUM

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2:00 PM | Grp. A | FEU | vs | MIT |
| 4:00 PM | Grp. D | DLSU | vs | SSC-R |

FRIDAY, OCT. 17 (SEMI-FINALS) ARANETA COLISEUM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:00 PM | Grp. D WINNER | vs | Grp. B WINNER |
| 4:00 PM | Grp. A WINNER | vs | Grp. C WINNER |

SATURDAY, OCT. 18 (FINALS) ARANETA COLISEUM

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:00 PM | BATTLE FOR THIRD |
| 4:00 PM | CHAMPIONSHIP |

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**PROUD BOYS OF SUMMER**

**FORMER** Tour champions, all proud sons of Pangasinan, pose with Air21 president Lito Alvarez, Tour Pilipinas executive director Mar Mendoza and race manager Paquito Rivas during the recognition rites Sunday in Mangatarem town. They are Rufino Cabot (1957), Edmundo de Guzman (1962), Gonzalo Recodos (1963), Jesus Garcia jr. (1973), Samson Cariño (1975), Modesto Bonzo (1976), Romeo Bonzo (1983), Ruben Cariño (1984), Pepito Calip (1985), Bernardo Llentada (1991), Santi Barnachea (Calabarzo 2002) and Arnel Quirimit (2003). Mamerto Eden Sr. (1958), Teodorico Rimarim (1974) and Jacinto Sicam (1981 and 1982) are deceased while Samson Etrata (1975) has migrated to Alaska.

# GMA expected as Palaro guest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**PRESIDENT Arroyo is expected to be the guest of honor and declare open the 2003 Palarong Pambansa on Oct. 25 at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.**

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo yesterday said she's waiting for the confirmation from the President after presiding over a meeting of the Palaro organizing committees as well as the 22 municipal mayors and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Dimaporo said the President's appearance in the opening rites would underscore the importance of the Palaro, which will also serve as the highlight of the government's peace efforts in the region.

"The President has been very supportive of the province's hosting of the Palaro," said Dimaporo.

Although the event has been postponed three times, Malacañang remained steadfast in its decision to hold the Palaro in Tubod. Dimaporo also promised to showcase Mindanao's rich and colorful culture during the opening rites.

The Dimaporos, who have been trying to bring the Palaro to their province since 1997, said they expect some 5,000 student-athletes from all 15 regions to see action in the meet.

But some regions won't be sending complete delegations because the Palaro is being held in the middle of the school year for the first time.

The Dimaporos are also expected to lead Lanao del Norte's delegation to the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games (MFG), which will precede the Palaro in Mati, Davao Oriental.

Lanao del Norte, which hosted the inaugural MFG, will be sending about 100 athletes to the Mati event, which will be held Oct. 19-24.

## RP basketball: Losing is not all

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

IF winning is not all, so is losing.

Our national team did figure in its most dismal outing in the recent Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship in Harbin, China.

Of course, RP could not lose it all, and therefore escaped finishing 16th and last by scraping past lowly Malaysia.

The RP team landed 15th, the worst by our national squad in the 43-year history of the ABC, which we used to dominate.

Now, who says failing and falling anomalously, the way the Filipino had lost the pure meaning of honor following that presidential turnaround at the Expo Pilipino, doesn't have its prize.

Look, even before aggrieved basketball fans could fully vent their ire on the inept amateur basketball leadership, something positive has started to come out of RP's biggest basketball debacle.

OK, it had appeared the Basketball Association of the Philippines, with no pertinent program to speak of, did not care a hoot if RP had finished dead last in the China series.

It was an embarrassment but, fortunately, there are those who feel RP basketball is worth saving.

***

Count on PBA Commissioner Noli Eala who said that, with the ultimate shame suffered by the RP cagers, they now have no choice but to pitch in.

Eala vowed to convince the PBA Board to include the ABC series, which serves as the Asian qualifier to the Olympics, among its main concerns.

Eala said he would work for an all-pro RP team in future ABC tournaments.

For the record, that has been the overwhelming clamor of practically all basketball sectors since the International Amateur Basketball Federation (Fiba) declared world tournaments open to pros.

While the PBA, before Eala, had agreed to field a PBA selection starting in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, the local pro league had vehemently refused to involve itself in all ABC tournaments.

No sane explanation was given on why the PBA had refused to participate in the Olympic qualifier, the ABC, which held its inaugural tournament in Manila in 1960.

Maybe the pro league had decided to first wait for the RP amateur team to sink to its lowest?

***

Actually, Eala earlier drew the ire of concerned basketball lovers, among them Teddy Reynoso of San Jose, Bulacan, who hit the PBA decision refusing the offer of pro teams to lend reserve players to the national team that was to compete in the Harbin ABC.

Complained Mr. Reynoso: "The least Eala could have done was allow willing PBA teams like FedEx and Talk 'N Text to lend active reserves to shore up the beleaguered RP team campaign. Forget commercialism for once. The disenchantment of the basketball public is widespread. In fact, majority of fans would rather watch collegiate leagues. At least, out there, basketball is primarily and basically still a sporting concern. If it's all entertainment you go for, *mas maraming magandang* telenovela *at* cable movies *diyan*."

With the latest development, an offshoot of the most dismal RP stand in the ABC series, Mr. Reynoso and countless others who have been batting for the return of an RP squad to the Olympic fold, have reason to feel gratified.

Remember how Commissioner Eala had confidently announced he would bring up PBA's involvement in the ABC in their next board meeting.

Of course, Eala must first be made to realize that fielding an all-pro team in the ABC championship is easier said than done, going by the PBA's deep commercial concerns.

So far, nothing has been heard of the proposal Eala was supposed to have taken up with the PBA Board.

***

Has Eala been told to shut up? Because the ABC involvement would eat heftily into the PBA calendar and therefore lessen the product exposure of all PBA clubs?

Sorry, again, but the PBA governors may not be in the mood to give in to Eala's immediate wishes.

From what we heard, Eala would use as one of his aces the PBA team stint in last year's Busan Asian Games.

He had openly suggested that, with the scintillating stand of the PBA squad that lost by a breath against eventual Busan Asiad cage champ South Korea, the Philippines was actually now at par with the best in Asia, as far as caging talent is concerned.

Wow! Sorry, but that was a limp premise, to say the least.

In the first place, one game should not and never be used to measure how basketball has progressed or declined hereabouts.

An objective assessment should include the awesome manner the China team had blown to bits our dear national team; so shamefully that it nearly forgot its RP initials.

As for the Korean team, its coach candidly admitted in a post-game talk that it did not even bother to scout the RP squad.

All the time, the Korean mentor explained, their full attention was focused on China.

Plainly told, what the RP team had nearly succeeded in beating in Busan was a blindfolded Korea side. In fact, this same Sokor squad dethroned the same China team that had mangled RP.

Eala has good intentions. But in using that shallow near-win over a groping Korean squad as instant gauge to the state of RP basketball, he could only assure the PBA, and all of us, of even bigger embarrassment.

## Stagfighter of the Year winner known tonight

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association's Stagfighter of the Year winner will be crowned tonight when the championship round of the NCA 7-Stag Derby fires off at 5 p.m. at Araneta Coliseum.

The fifth and final leg of the Stagwars series is being hosted by Louie Cua and Tony Tan.

Among the top contenders to bag the "Stagfighter" plum are Rep. Rudy Albano, Patrick Antonio, hotelier Bihoy Enriquez, newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet, Mayor Nene Aguilar, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Gov. Ito Yñares.

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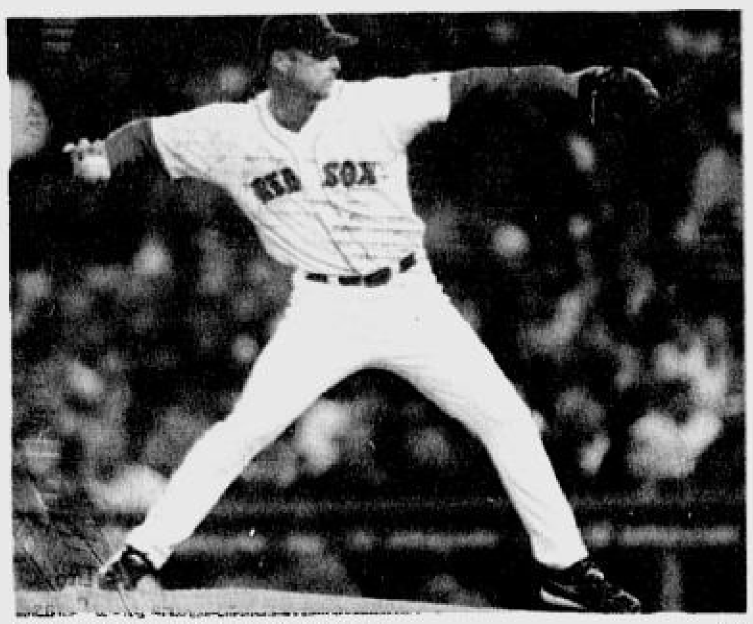

WAKEFIELD: Seven strong innings. AFP

# Red Sox tie Yankees

**BOSTON—No fists, just knucklers.**

Tim Wakefield and the Boston Red Sox won this duel with a baffling knuckleball pitch that floated and fluttered past the New York Yankees in a 3-2 win Monday night that knotted the American League championship series at two games apiece.

Todd Walker and Trot Nixon hit solo homers for Boston's struggling offense, and pinch-hitter Jason Varitek had a key RBI grounder in the seventh, speeding to first to just avoid an inning-ending double play.

Most significantly, there were no more fights between the old foes.

"I think it was kind of good to let everybody calm down," Nixon said. "I think we all disrespected the game the other night."

z After a one-day break caused by a rainout, there was none of the brawling that hit marred Game 3 on Saturday. Relying on baseball's most mysterious pitch, Wakefield beat Mike Mussina for the second time in the series, which now must return to Yankee Stadium later this week.

"Being rained out yesterday got everybody cooled down," Wakefield said.

Until the ninth, New York's only run came home on Derek Jeter's fifth-inning double that hit third base. But after Scott Williamson struck out Nick Johnson leading off the ninth, pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra closed New York within a run with a homer, ending a streak of 19 1-3 shutout innings for Boston's much-maligned bullpen.

Williamson, who had relieved Mike Timlin to start the inning, then struck out David Dellucci and Alfonso Soriano to earn the save.

"It was nice to have a nice clean game for baseball fans," Varitek said.

The series continues at Fenway Park on Tuesday, originally a travel day. David Wells pitches for New York against Derek Lowe in Game 5.

After Sunday's rainout, fans had a festive time on the warm autumn night, booing Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, who screamed Saturday at Pedro Martinez after the Boston pitcher hit Karim Garcia with a pitch. Posada went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts, leaving seven runners on base.

*AP*

# Toxic issue

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

THE ISSUE of toxic waste contamination in the former American military bases in Clark Field and Subic should be a topic for discussion between US President George W. Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo when they meet in Malacañang on Oct. 18.

In the meeting, President Macapagal should inform Mr. Bush of the importance of removing the toxic waste from the two US bases because this would not only leave a lasting legacy to the Filipino people but also preserve the strong bond of friendship between the two allies. While American officials had claimed in the past that the 1947 Philippines-US military bases agreement did not require environmental remedy, it does not mean the US has no moral obligation to clean up the toxic waste in the bases.

Mr. Bush should forget this legal gobbledygook for the sake of a longtime friend by ordering a total cleanup not only to further prevent the unnecessary loss of lives, many of whom are innocent children, but also show to the whole world that America, for all its bigness, is not small in heart.

Recently, grieving parents had appealed to President Macapagal to take up the toxic waste issue with Mr. Bush.

"Madame President, please tell President George Bush to pity our children," said Subic resident Rudy Palo, whose son Rogelio died of leukemia after prolonged exposure to toxic substances. "It's heartbreaking to see our children suffer in sickness from something that they don't understand."

The danger of toxic waste is a serious matter. But it has remained largely invisible to the public mainly because many poor countries, including the Philippines, lack the time and resources to tackle the problem, much less ventilate the issue and report the tragedy. Still, some kindred souls have taken up the cudgels for the Filipino toxic waste victims, among them:

- Princess Caroline of Monaco who wrote President Bush last year saying, "I would like to request your intervention to expedite the necessary countermeasures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation." Princess Caroline is president of Amade or World Association of Children's Friends, a worldwide humanitarian organization founded by her late mother, Princess Grace.
- Peace and child advocate Roberto Mauri led more than 500 Italians in urging President Arroyo and President Bush to clean up the toxic waste the US soldiers left behind in Clark and Subic in 1991. Mauri heads the group called the "Little Prince."
- Greenpeace International and the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup, which have, through the years, been campaigning for a comprehensive assessment and total cleanup of the former bases by the US government. Von Hernandez, Task Force chair and Greenpeace Asia coordinator, also said President Arroyo should negotiate for compensation for all toxic waste victims.
- Environmentalist Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Imee Marcos who have asked the US government to clean up the toxic waste because the toxic chemicals in the water that the people drink and or the air they breathe are hazardous to their health, the same reason why I have been repeatedly opposing the plan to build a permanent sports complex inside the sprawling Clark Air Force Base. I felt that in the long run, the presence of toxic chemicals in Clark will affect the physical and mental health of Filipino athletes who will be housed there while training.

***

**HERE AND THERE.** National shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, son of Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong, and up-and-coming Rachel Capili loom as the Philippines' best bets in the Bangkok Open on Oct. 20-27. "I'm pretty sure they will perform well," said shooting president Art Macapagal... Athletics boss Go Teng Kok is also optimistic, predicting a gold medal harvest of nine to 14 gold medals in the SEA Games in Vietnam this December... Baseball great Boy Codiñera played for UST, not FEU...How true is the report that the National Chess Federation of the Philippines still owes the Fide some 1,000 Swiss francs in 'unpaid dues?' Will this failure to settle the dues prevent the Filipino chessers from playing in the Vietnam SEA Games?

# DOT sports drive launched Nov. 7

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism's campaign to use sports in promoting tourism in the country will be launched on Nov. 7 at the WOW Philippines Intramuros, DOT Sports Tourism director Cynthia Carrion announced yesterday.

"I want the Philippines to be identified with a sport that can showcase the beauty of our country like diving. Same way that Nepal is associated with mountain climbing," said Carrion during the PSA Forum yesterday.

Carrion guested in the public sports program backed by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor with Anton Romulo of the sponsoring Visa International.

Star-studded sporting activities such as badminton, golf and billiards matches among key personalities and celebrities are expected to add excitement to the event.

## RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1. Heza Gunner 2. Husay na 3. Gigi's Gold
Race 3--1. Hurry King 2. Maayo Sigaw
Race 4--1. Mrs. Big 2. Gutmoore/Gemstone 3. Hyperbid 4. Sharon's Cookie/Ginger Candy
Race 5--1. Savvy Lad 2. Powerhouse 3. Dixie Dancer 4. Modern Classic 5. Earl Gray
Race 6--1. May's Magic 2. St. Emilion 3. Ang Seaman
Race 7--1. Vhingget 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Power Dance 4. Divine Right 5. Master Strategist
Race 8--1. Don Paolo 2. Roadshow 3. Calvin's Magic 4. Spectacular Queen
Race 9--1. Quedan 2. Royal Bet 3. Long Road 4. Friendly Lover 5. Manila Mauler 6. Kusang Loob

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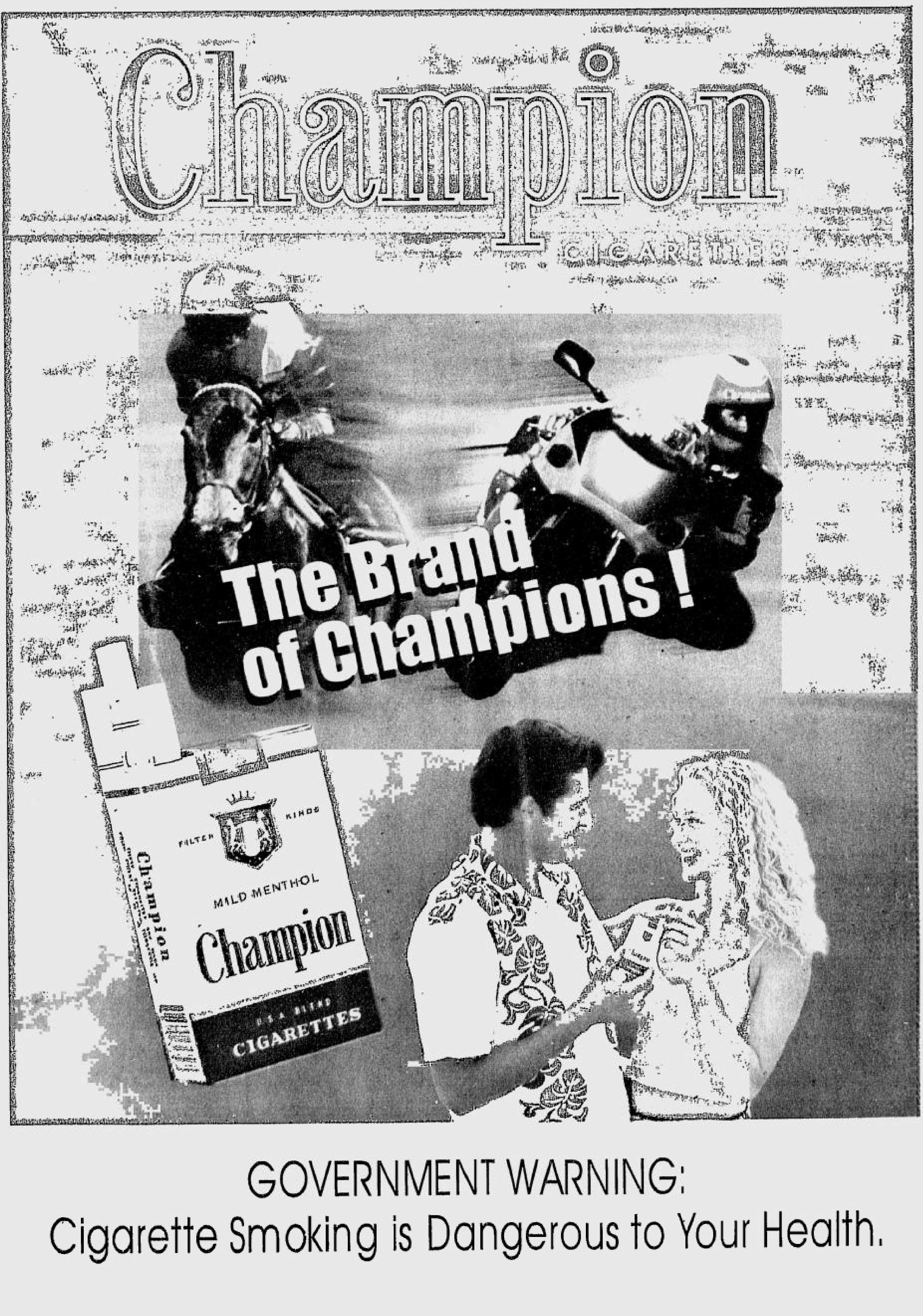

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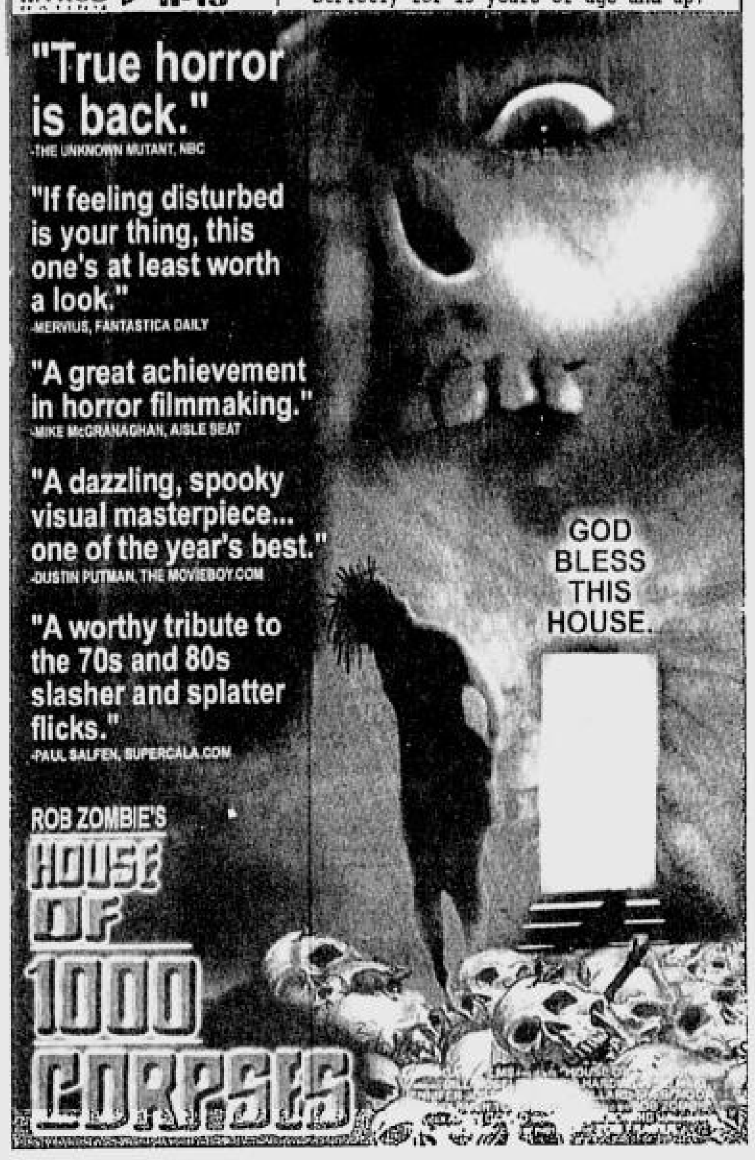
### DID YOU KNOW...

**Pops Fernandez** was seen checking out her soon-to-open Pipay store at **Ricky Reyes'** Beauty Central in Greenhills last Tuesday afternoon. With Pops were comedian **Arnel Ignacio**, a co-tenant at Beauty Central, and **Brad Turyey**, Pops' rumored boyfriend. Beauty expert **Elvie Pineda**, mom of sisters **Rachel** and **Lani Lobangco**, also has a store at Beauty Central.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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | [illegible] |
| MAXIM | [illegible] |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / [illegible] |
| ODEON | [illegible] |
| ODEON-2 | [illegible] BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY: LEGEND OF CROCODILE |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | BUGBOG SARADO |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | BUGBOG SARADO |
| B | |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| CINEMA-2 | TREK |
| CINEMA-3 | PILYA |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | HOW TO DEAL |
| CINEMA-6 | KISKISAN |
| CINEMA-7 | PRINSIPE AT SIRENA |
| CINEMA-8 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | FREAKY FRIDAY |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MATCHSTICK MEN |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | THE SUSPECT |
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| CINEMA-15 | BUGBOG SARADO |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
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| **NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| (LAS PIÑAS) | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| CINEMA-1 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| CINEMA-2 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| CINEMA-4 | PILYA |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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# It's a boy!

LONDON—Actress Helena Bonham Carter and film director Tim Burton are the parents of a newborn baby boy.

Bonham Carter gave birth to the couple's first child, whom they have not yet named, in London on Saturday, said Nicki Van Gelder, the actress' agent.

The two met when Burton, 45, directed Bonham Carter, 37, in the remake of the sci-fi movie "Planet of the Apes."

They live in adjoining houses in north London and recently connected the homes with a door.

"I don't know if we'll marry," the magazine Radio Times quoted Bonham Carter as saying. "I find it romantic bearing his illegitimate child and living next door."

Bonham Carter first won fame acting in period films including "A Room With a View" and has starred more recently in "Fight Club" and "Mighty Aphrodite."

Burton has directed movies including "Edward Scissorhands," "Sleepy Hollow" and "Batman." *AP*

## SHOW TIME

# Debut album

AQUA'S gorgeous front woman, Lene Nystrom, returns to the global music circuit with a solo album, "Play With Me," released in the Philippines under MCA Universal.

The album boasts of punchy, funky and vibrant songs that would delight pop devotees.

"Of course, it's a challenge to stand alone after being in a successful band for so many years," Lene admits.

"I guess, I needed to build my confidence in many areas where I used to rely on the boys—but at the same time I'm really a restless person, and I was always fired up by doing my own thing."

"Play With Me" has given up the loud comic-strip imagery of Aqua, but there's still an unmistakable tongue-in-cheek sense of humor at the core of her music. "Finding a real mood and character for each song in the album has been really important to me," she says.

Lene Nystrom made waves when Aqua scored in 1997 the No. 1 smash hit "Barbie Girl."

A flood of infectious hits followed: "Doctor Jones," "Turn Back Time" and "Cartoon Heroes."

When Aqua disbanded in 2001, Lene concentrated on her personal life. She married her former bandmate Soren Rasted and divided her time between Copenhagen and the UK capital.

With her solo debut CD album, "Play With Me," Lene teases, kisses, fondles and leaves her audience wanting for more.

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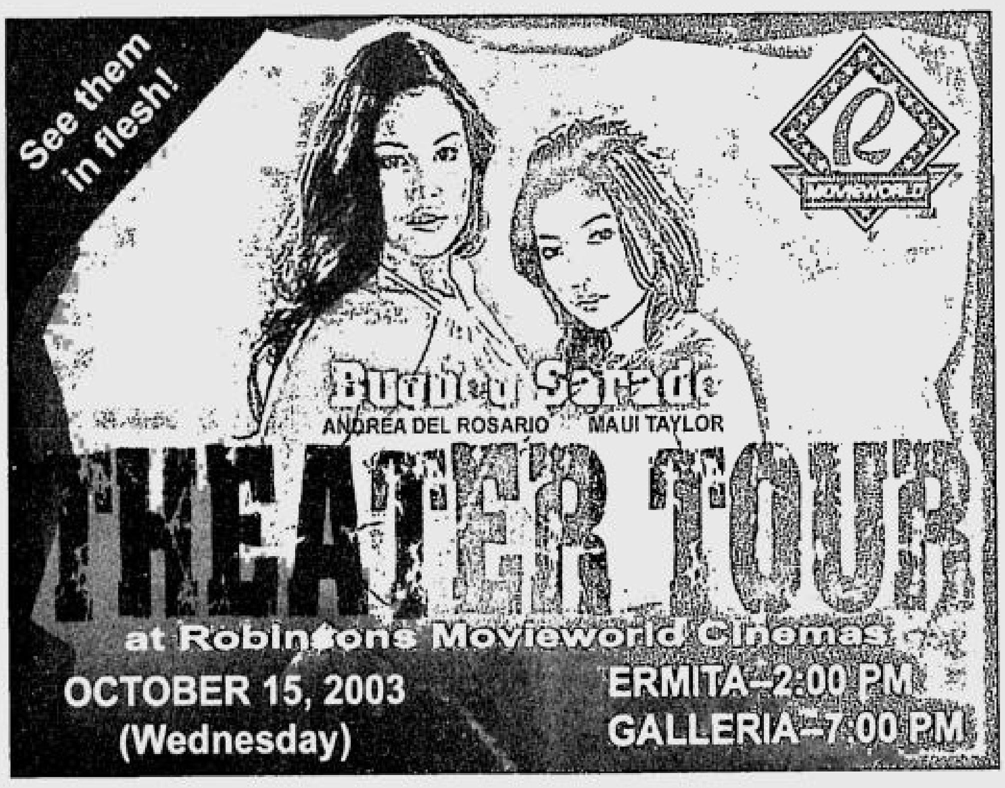

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 FREAKY FRIDAY | 1 MATCHSTICK MEN<br>2 THE SUSPECT | ArtFilm 1 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 MATCHSTICK MEN 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 | THX 1 FREAKY FRIDAY |
| 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30<br>4 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS | 2 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 MATCHSTICK MEN 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDERWORLD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 | 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING<br>3 MATCHSTICK MEN |
| 3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES | 5 HOW TO DEAL<br>6 FREAKY FRIDAY | REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM | GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE SUSPECT 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 4 UNDERWORLD |
| 4 BUGBOG SARADO | 7 UNDERWORLD |  | GUARANTEED SEATS 5 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING [illegible] | 5 THE SUSPECT |

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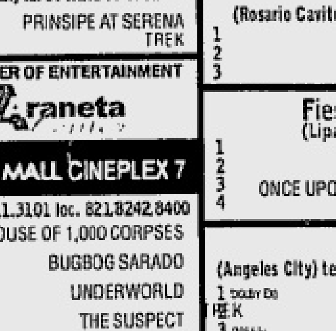

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## NETWORK NOT MAKING MONEY FROM PAGEANT

# It's the last Miss Asia Quest for GMA 7

**Marinel R. Cruz**

NETWORK giant GMA 7 is "not making enough money" in producing the Miss Asia Pacific Quest annual beauty pageant so it will not renew its contract with the beauty pageant organizer.

GMA Network Inc. program manager Bang Arespacochaga said the network spends a huge amount of money but "earns very little in return."

"We're talking not just about pesos but dollars here, because we shoulder the expenses in bringing the contestants from their respective countries to the Philippines to compete," Arespacochaga said at yesterday's MAPQ press presentation at the Holiday Inn Galleria in Ortigas.

She said GMA 7 did not want to sacrifice the quality of its program by cutting down production cost, "because we want the show to conform to GMA 7 standards."

"We actually elevated the standards of Miss Asia Pacific Search when we took over three years ago," she said.

When asked for his comment, Roberto de Venecia, MAPQ Inc. president, said he could not dispute GMA 7's statement. But he also said, "for one to make money in a venture like this, one has to be creative."

De Venecia said GMA 7 is a "very good organization" but it has to be more resourceful in terms of raising funds.

"We should think global," he said. "Nothing will happen to us if we don't go beyond the local market. The only way is to go international."

That is why MAPQ will opt for "international programming" next year by staging the pageant overseas, De Venecia said.

If plans push through, MAPQ will also stage the Miss Asia Pacific Philippines search abroad, he added.

Miss KOREA
Miss MALAYSIA
Miss MEXICO
NEPAL

**THIS year's candidates for the Miss Asia Pacific Quest pose for press photographers at the pool side of the Holiday Inn Galleria. Next year, 15 more candidates will be vying for the title.**
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"Next year, 15 more countries will be sending their representatives," De Venecia said.

MAPQ opted to go into partnership with GMA 7 in 2002 after Carousel Productions, the pageant's former producer, decided to put up a beauty search of its own, Miss Earth International.

On Oct. 26, 25 ladies from all around world will compete for the Miss Asia Pacific title in a three-hour program, starting at 9:30 p.m., at the AFP Theater in Quezon City.

"And because it this is our last year with Miss Asia Pacific, we will go for an all-Filipino theme," Arespacochaga said. "We will go Filipiniana from the clothes of the contestants down to their production numbers."

The contestants will have a barrio-fiesta inspired production number with pageant host Dingdong Dantes.

Guest celebrities Epi Quizon, Jomari Yllana, Biboy Ramirez and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group will serenade the contestants.

International singer and theater actor Paolo Montalban will share hosting chores with Dantes.

The contestants will be wearing evening gowns made from an indigenous material from the Ilocos Region called *abel iloco*, Arespacochaga said.

Fashion designer Eric Pineda will create most of the clothes.

The three-hour program will begin with a parade of the contestants in their national costumes. The swimsuit and long gown competition, as well as the interview portion, will follow.

Last Oct. 6, the contestants visited scenic spots in Ilocos Sur, where the evening gown competition was held. A week later, they went to La Union for the talent competition.

On Oct. 21, some of the contestants will be part of an international hair and make-up competition, hosted by beauty icon Ricky Reyes for the Hairdresser and Cosmetologist Association of the Philippines, at the PICC in Pasay City.

Miss GUATEMALA
DIA

**EARLY favorites: Miss Guatemala, Talia Fajardo, and Miss India, Shonal Rawat**

# Dead ringers

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

WHEN local TV channels produce stars' bio-dramas, little effort is made to cast actors who look like the celebrities whose lives are being dramatized. Thus, in a recent teleplay, tall **Melanie Marquez** was played by relatively short Alessandra de Rossi. In another episode, Long Mejia tried to look like the late **Rene Requiestas**, but failed.

On US TV, however, things are more impressively professional and credible. Thus, when the life of New York's Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** was made the subject of a TV drama-special, **James Woods** was made to resemble the famous hero of 9/11.

Next up in the "serious impersonation" line-up is **Timothy Bottoms**, who's been tapped to play Pres. **George W. Bush** in "DC 9/11," a TV docudrama that aims to recreate how the White House dealt with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

After he came out of make-up, Bottoms astounded everybody with his close resemblance to the US chief executive. The least surprised person on the set was Bottoms himself, who knew from past experience that he was a dead ringer for Pres. Bush.

Fact is, he had already played Bush on TV and very convincingly at that, two years ago. The difference is, "DC 9/11" is a docudrama, while Bottoms' previous Bush impersonation was on Comedy Central's satirical sitcom, "That's My Bush!"

Well, Bottoms is a versatile actor, as proven by his performances in movies like "The Last Picture Show" and "The Paper Chase," so the change of tone from comedy to drama was easy for him to pull off.

Bottoms prepared for his portrayal of Bush by watching numerous tapes of the chief executive. He hopes that "DC 9/11" will boost his flagging acting career.

He's in a couple of new movies—"Elephant" and "The Girl Next Door," but in small roles that can't do much for him. He trusts that his stellar participation in "DC 9/11" will.

### Family ties, 2

THREE more films about families showing this month on the Hallmark Channel's "Movie Premieres" slot (at 9 p.m.):

Oct. 19, "Brush with Faith": Art and politics collide as the strange journey of a "lost" Vermeer painting is retraced. For over three centuries, "Girl in Hyacinth Blue" goes from owner to owner. It is bought with passion but sold in desperation, and stolen during the Nazis' reign of terror. **Glenn Close** plays the role of its current owner, an idiosyncratic teacher, and **Thomas Gibson** is her colleague in a private school.

Oct. 26, "Love Comes Softly": A strong-willed widow ventures into the American frontier with her nine-year-old daughter. Mourning the loss of her husband, she reluctantly enters into a temporary marriage of convenience—as she waits for spring and her trip back home. In spite of the harsh climate and surroundings, however, love blooms in the most unexpected place.

Lead players include **Katherine Heigl, Dale Midkiff, Skye McCole Bartusiak, Corbin Bernsen** and **Theresa Russell**.

Finally, in "The Haunting of Seacliff Inn" a San Francisco couple heads for idyllic Mendocino, where they spot a lovely seafront home. After the property's elderly owner dies, the couple moves into the beautiful vacation house—only to realize that their dream home will unleash their worst nightmares.

Scary happenings plague the couple—a contractor is electrocuted, the family dog is killed—so they decide to get to the bottom of the shocking secret that haunts Seacliff Inn. **Ally Sheedy** and **William R. Moses** portray the beleaguered couple.

### Fear Poll

RUNNING until Oct. 17, the AXN Channel's Fear Poll is designed to determine fears that are most common among Asians. From a list of 20, pollsters will be able to list their greatest fears. The poll is open to viewers across Asia. More information can be found on AXN's website, axn-asia.com.

### 'Acoustapella'

"ACOUSTAPELLA," a concert put up by the Youth Apostolate of the Renewal Movement of St. James the Great Parish, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the De La Salle Zobel gym in Ayala Alabang.

The event will combine an amateur battle of the bands contest and a special performance by the Akafellas, a popular all-male *a capella* group set to release its first album soon. Call Martin Gonzalez at 0917-8102364, or Jason Buensalido at 0917-8451319 and 842-0111.

### 'Extreme Engineering'

THE DISCOVERY Channel's "Extreme Engineering" show (Thursdays at 10 p.m.) telecasts these episodes: Oct. 16, "Subways in America." Oct. 23, "Bridging the Bering Strait." Oct. 30, "City in a Pyramid."

### Meet John Trones

NOW that male singers are required not only to sing well but also to look like hunks, the field is wide open for handsome young tenor **John Trones**. His expressive voice is showcased in his new album titled "Forward."

The album, produced by **Jim Brickman**, is a collaboration of contemporary and Broadway-influenced standards and original romantic ballads. It features new songs by Brickman and **Mary Beth Carlson**.

Trones has been involved in a number of film and television projects. He has written, produced and performed in many musical-theater productions, most recently playing important roles in two new feature films.

He has also performed with Brickman in Thailand, Taiwan and Malaysia, and did a US tour with Brickman and Olivia Newton-John.

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KATE BECKINSALE
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# Former PMPC . . .

From page A31

Balbastro said the PMPC should stop giving awards for a year.

He said that during his time as president, members of the PMPC executive committee underwent a seminar on film and acting appreciation two months before the awards ceremony.

Two days before the awarding, the Execom members meet to deliberate on each category and vote through secret balloting, said Balbastro.

"In case of a tie, it is the responsibility of the president to break it," he explained. "Only the president would know this, so if there's a leakage, he is the one to blame."

Samio said that to protect the PMPC's credibility, its members were forbidden to be associated with any movie or television company one month before the deliberation.

"I resigned as PMPC president when I was offered a project by ABS-CBN for 'Maalalala Mo Kaya,'" she said. "It's such a pity. We've worked so hard to shield the PMPC from controversy. Maybe these people should leave the group and form their own (group)."

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

# PMPC ex-presidents question Star Awards results

By Marinel R. Cruz

THREE former presidents of the Philippine Movie Press Club have questioned the process of selection of winners in the just concluded 17th Star Awards for Television, claiming that there were "glaring disparities" among the winners and losers.

Ernie Pecho, PMPC president from 1985 to 1987, said there were performers who won "even though they could hardly carry a tune," and shows which bagged awards although they have "poor production quality."

"Whoever is running the PMPC must have created a new criteria for judging the winners," Pecho told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday.

He said there were "nasty talks" going around saying there had been "pay offs" to this year's PMPC officials.

But PMPC president, Julie Bonifacio, said it was difficult to prove that pay offs had occurred. She said there are 26 voting members of the PMPC and it was impossible to identify who among them were paid to vote for particular nominees.

"If this thing gets worse, Julie would be the first PMPC president to be impeached," said Billy Balbastro, 1984 PMPC president.

Balbastro is the only PMPC president to receive a Dr. Perez Journalism Memorial Award from the Filipino Academy for Movie Arts and Sciences or Famas.

"As an entertainment writer and a former PMPC president, this is the most tragic happening for me," Balbastro said. "When Eddie Garcia lost the best drama actor award, I told myself, 'there must be something wrong.'"

John Estrada beat Garcia and five other nominees for best drama actor for his work on ABS-CBN's "Kaytagal Kitang Hinintay."

Balbastro said he heard there were last-minute changes in the list of winners that night. He said he even received text messages the day before the awards ceremony saying that ABS-CBN would win by a landslide.

"How would these people know?" he asked. "As far as I remember, only the PMPC president, an inspector and a representative from the auditing firm get to see the list of winners."

"You'll be shocked with what you don't know," said Veronica Samio, PMPC president from 1991 to 1993.

Samio said she even heard talks that there were individuals who paid several PMPC officials so they would win an award.

"During my time as president, we debated furiously as to who would win even a minor award like Darling of the Press," Samio said. "I really don't know how PMPC could regain its credibility after this."

Pecho said there should be an inquiry and investigation into the awards selection process to be spearheaded by former presidents.

FORMER/ A30

**VETERAN actor Eddie Garcia (above) lost to John Estrada for Best Drama Actor while The Hunks' ASAP Mania won as Best Variety Show. (l-r: Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Carlos Agassi, Jericho Rosales and Bernard Palanca)** RUDY ESPERAS

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| Dec. 26 | Fri | | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Dec. 27 | Sat | 1:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Dec. 28 | Sun | 1:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Dec. 29 | Mon | | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Dec. 30 | Tue | 1:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Dec. 31 | Wed | REST DAY | | |
| Jan. 1 | Thu | | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| Jan. 2 | Fri | | 4:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
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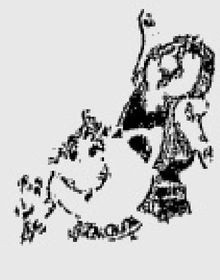

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# Ford allots $50M to push RP export plan

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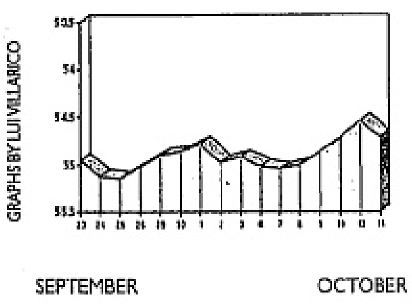

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### STOCK MARKET

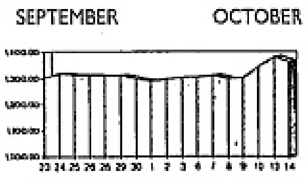
**Shares down 1.39%**

SHARE prices closed 1.39 percent lower yesterday on heavy profit-taking after hitting a near 18-month high Monday, dealers said.

They said, however, that

SHARES/ B6

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Michelle V. Remo

**FORD Motor Co. yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to turn the Philippines into a regional export hub for its Asean operations and announced an additional $50-million investment into its Sta. Rosa manufacturing facility.**

The pledge was made to President Macapagal-Arroyo by Bill Ford, chair and chief executive of Ford Motor, during a courtesy call at Malacañang.

According to Ford, the $50-million investment, to be made over the next several years, was driven by the company's new vehicle programs for the Asian market. The Ford chair said the $50-million investment would include facility upgrade, tooling and engineering costs related to new vehicle programs.

He said the increased export capacity out of Ford Philippines would clearly position the Philippines as an important export hub for Ford within Asean that would be second only to its Thailand operation.

Ford Philippines already holds the distinction of being the nation's sole exporter of completely built-up (CBU) vehicles to its neighboring Asean countries. Within the framework of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta), Ford Philippines exports the Ford Lynx and Mazda Protégé sedans and the Ford Escape and Mazda Tribute SUVs to Thailand and Indonesia.

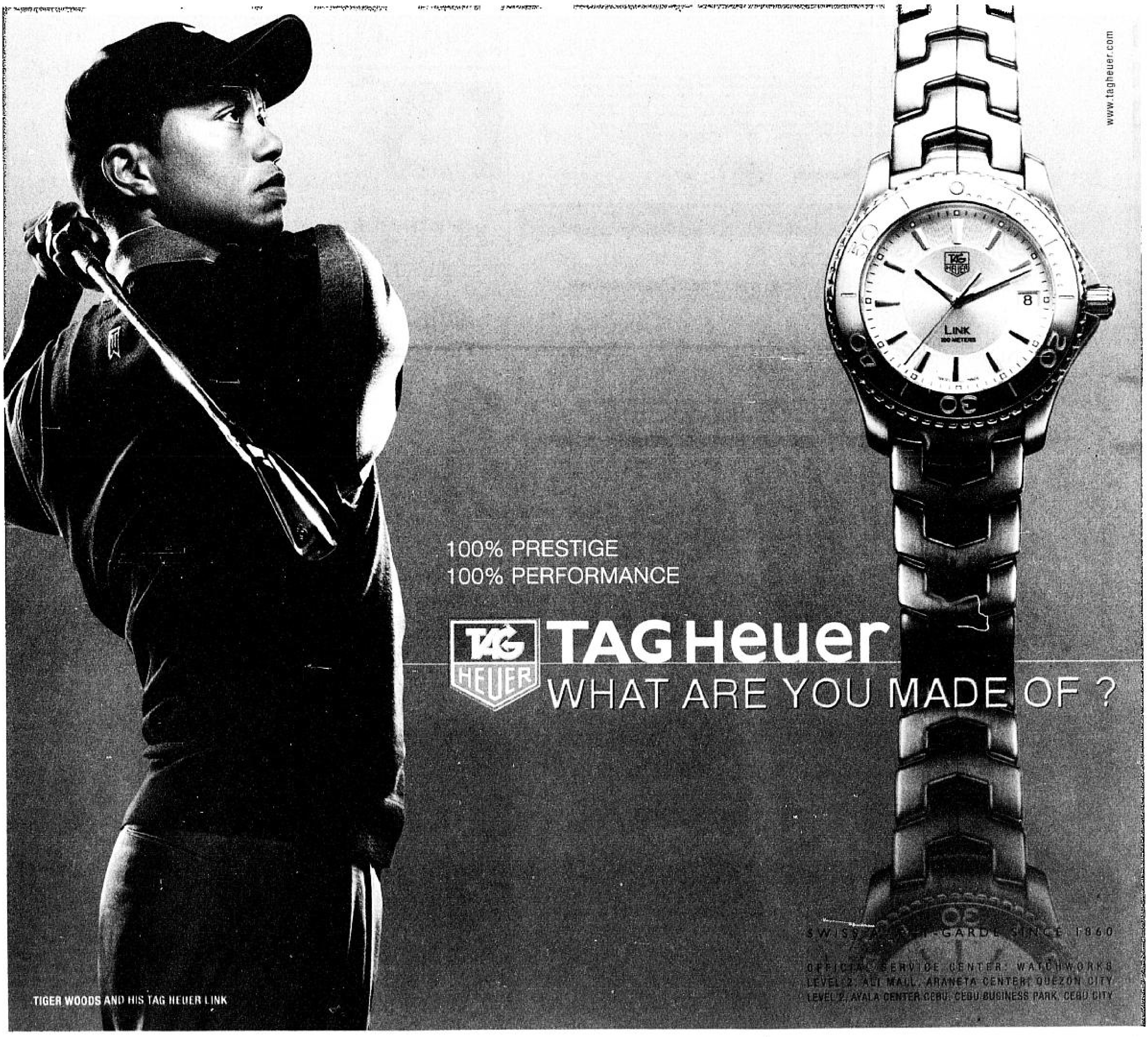
The Ford Vehicle Export Program first took shape with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Ford Motor Co. in Washington in November 2001. The export program was officially launched in March 2002 with the Ford Lynx. In September 2002, the first Ford Escape bound for export was produced at the Santa Rosa plant in a ceremony attended by President Macapagal. To date, the program has exported 12,000, a figure that is expected to reach 17,000 units by the end of year.

"Ford's decision to invest further in the Philippines and boost CBU exports is timely, and well aligned with the Philippine government's Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP)," the Ford chair said. "I believe a clear commitment from the governing leadership toward progressive policy reforms is vital to the survival of the auto industry and provides a sustainable business environment for automotive investors."

"Our current production at Santa Rosa is about 15,000, which falls short of the op-

FORD/ B5

BILL Ford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# Napocor seen to lose money despite rate hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. would continue to lose money even after the Energy Regulatory Commission allowed the state-run firm to increase its rates by between 34 and 56 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

On condition of anonymity, a Napocor official said the increased rates were still "artificially low."

In an order dated Oct. 10, the ERC authorized Napocor to increase its selling rate in Luzon by 34 centavos to P2.24 per kWh from P2.12 per kWh.

For the Visayas, rates would gradually go up every quarter over the next four quarters to P2.82 per kWh (in the third quarter of 2004) or 41 centavos more than the current P2.41 per kWh.

Similarly, power prices in the Panay-Bohol grids would increase by 56 centavos per kWh to P2.97 per kWh.

The ERC, meanwhile, ordered Napocor to maintain existing rates in Mindanao.

The Napocor official said rates under the new scheme dubbed long-run avoidable cost (LRAC) still fell short of the adjustments that the company needed to recover escalating costs.

In a petition filed in September, Napocor asked the ERC for an increase of P1.78 per kWh in Mindanao, 50 centavos per kWh in increase in Luzon and 40 centavos per kWh in the Visayas.

"Rates under LRAC are based on the assumed rates that could be offered by a 'best new entrant'—which refers to a very efficient power plant that could be constructed starting this year," the source said.

"In the ERC order, such a plant is a coal-fired generator running at 91 percent efficiency," the source added.

The LRAC forces existing power producers to run as efficiently—and thus offer a competitive price--as against a new entrant, the official added.

Asked whether Napocor could match the performance and selling rates of a new entrant without incurring losses, the source said "No."

In a related development, groups of electricity consumer said on Monday it was back to hearing room battles with the Manila Electric Co. after the private distributor filed a petition last Friday for a rate hike of 13.58 centavos per kWh.

In a statement, Meralco said its finances, particularly its cash flow, remained in critical condition.

Meralco attributed its woes to the combined need to operate and maintain its distribution system, undertake planned capital projects and service maturing loans.

This was on top of its ongoing P30-billion refund ordered by the Supreme Court.

# Ford downplays Francisco Motors' damage claim

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines has shrugged off claims by Francisco Motor Corp. (FMC) that Ford and Mazda Corp. breached an agreement that eventually led to FMC's financial woes.

Ford likewise downplayed FMC's damage claim worth $85 million.

FMC has accused Ford and Mazda before a rehabilitation court of preventing it from continuing its assembly of Mazda pick-up trucks, thus causing financial losses to FMC.

FMC said the $85 million in damages it sought from Ford and Mazda was equivalent to FMC's investment in the upgrading of its assembly plant to comply with global standards and accommodate increased production of Mazda pick-up trucks.

FMC was a former distributor of Mazda pick-up trucks.

When Ford set up office in the Philippines in the late 1990s, it manufactured Ford Ranger pick-up trucks, which was said to be an exact copy of the Mazda pick-up trucks.

The similarity between the Mazda pick-up truck and Ford Ranger pick-up resulted in a conflict with Ford Ranger's registration with the Board of Investments.

FMC issued a "letter of no objection" to Ford's assembly of the Ranger pick-up trucks on condition that FMC would be allowed to assemble Mazda pick-up trucks, and be granted exclusive importation and marketing rights for Mazda until October 2002.

FMC asked for the right to import and sell Mazda even after the entry of Ford to the Philippines.

Ford owns 30 percent of Mazda.

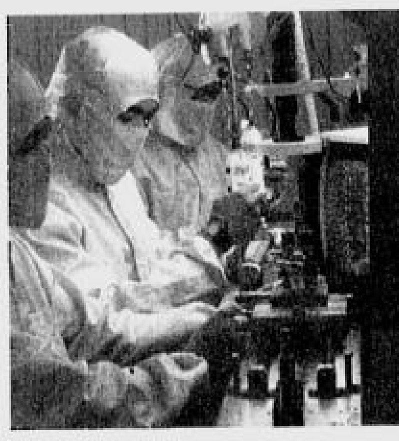
FMC, however, said Ford breached the agreement, and Mazda allegedly conspired with its shareholder Ford by cutting ties with FMC.

With the alleged breach of agreement, FMC said its newly assembled plant became idle, thus costs escalated and eventually losses were incurred.

Ford vice president David Macasadia, however, said Ford would not pay much attention to FMC's claims saying that the case was already resolved.

"As far as we are concerned, it is already settled," said Macasadia in an interview with reporters during the launch of Ford's three new car models yesterday.

Ford said the company has already been given the go-ahead by the courts to take over the assembly and sale of Mazda.



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*Environmental Management and Safety Opportunities and Initiatives for Upturn*
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*Investing in the Philippines right here,right now... Look at the Tax Incentives and Revenue Collection Climate*
ASSOCIATION OF SEMICONDUCTOR/ ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (ASEMEP)
*SETC Training Summit 2003 Industry Trainers... Responding Challenges*

October 17
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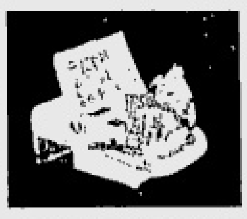

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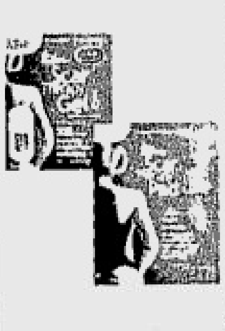

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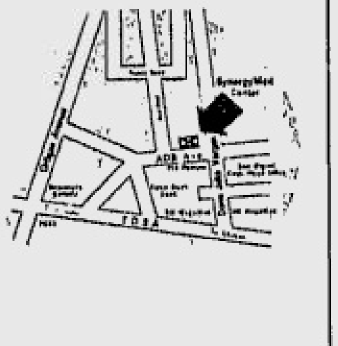

# BSP signs $500-M loan facility

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday signed a three-year, $500-million syndicated loan facility to boost its international reserves and settle maturing debt, the bank said in a statement.

Citibank NA, Citigroup Global Markets Asia Ltd., Credit Lyonnais, DBS Bank Ltd., HSH Nordbank AG, Mizuho Corporate Asia Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. underwrote the loan agreement.

Of the proceeds to be released on Oct. 27, $115 million will be used to pay a $200-million loan from JP Morgan Chase that is maturing this month.

The loan carries a spread of 2.26 percent a year over the three- to six-month London interbank offered rate.

"The BSP is pleased to see this facility closed successfully and well received by the market. This demonstrates the banking sector's continued confidence in the country's development as well as the critical role played by the central bank in the face of geopolitical conditions," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Tetangco said the BSP would not prefund $830 million in maturing obligations in 2004.

The remaining $385 million from the loan proceeds will boost the country's dollar reserves this year.

Tetangco said the signing of the loan would allow the national government to proceed with its planned bond float. The clear market provision prohibiting two sovereign groups from tapping the market at the same time was lifted last Friday.

Six of the seven underwriters contributed $40 million while DBS Bank Ltd. gave $36.5 million.

*Clarissa S. Batino*

# 3-yr bond yield falls to 9%

THE GOVERNMENT'S cost of medium-term borrowings fell substantially in yesterday's auction that saw a drop in the three-year treasury bond rate to 9 percent from 10.125 percent last month.

The Bureau of Treasury raised P3 billion in yesterday's sale of three-year bonds out of P7.84 billion in tenders. It could raise another P1 billion from the over-the-counter facility opened after the auction.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the market obviously preferred government securities longer than five years. "The interest is on the long term rather than the short term," he said.

Edeza said the government might consider shifting some of its requirements to the long-term market as investors remained wary of debt paper maturing in three months to a year.

Even the secondary market rate for the three-year bonds stood at 9 percent yesterday.

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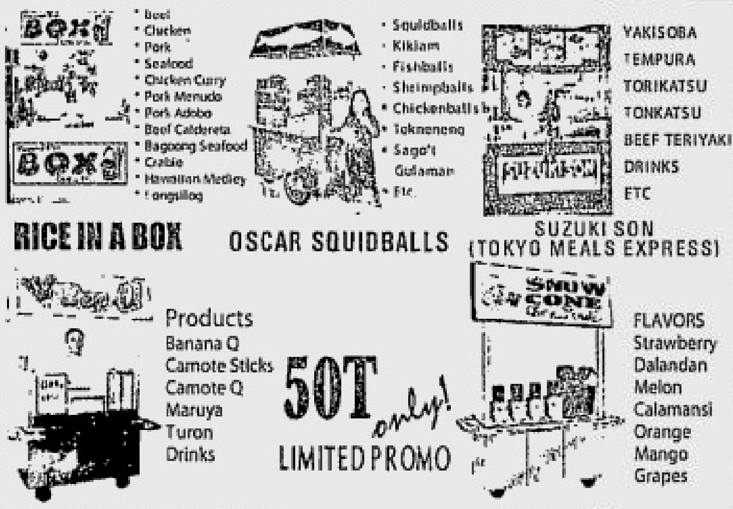

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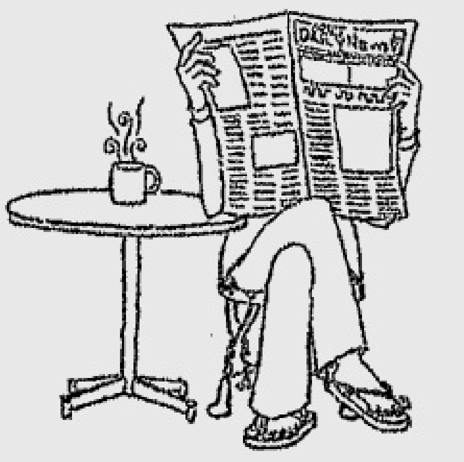

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Module 2
Saturday, October 25, 2003
Risks of investing in fixed-term securities
Portfolio management
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*Seminar on Advanced Project Evaluation and Risk Analysis Techniques*

*November 7 and 8, 2003*
*(Friday and Saturday)*

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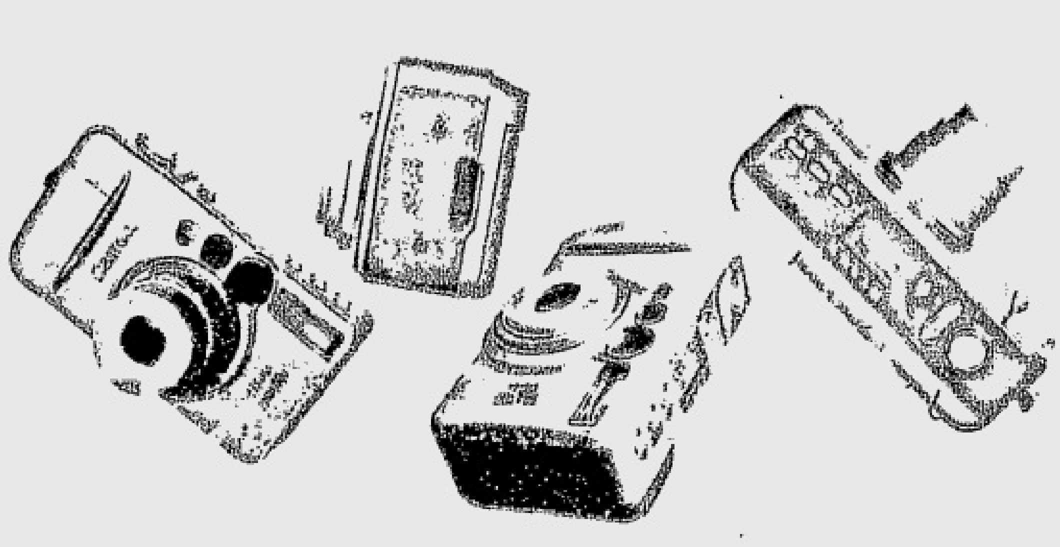

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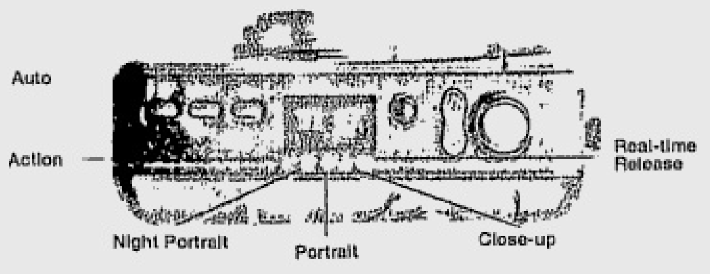

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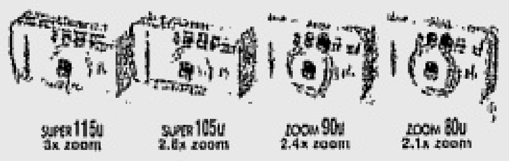

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# 8-mo. OFW remittances up 4.8%

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

DOLLAR inflow from about eight million Filipinos working overseas in the first eight months of the year hit $5.063 billion, up by 4.78 percent from $4.832 billion in the same period last year.

The 4.78 percent growth, however, paled in comparison to the 22.6 percent year-on-year growth registered in the first eight months last year.

In August, alone, dollar remittances contracted by 4.6 percent to $542 million from $568 million in the same months last year. Prior to that month, OFW remittances have been growing by a monthly average of more than 6 percent.

Sources said OFWs and their families held back their dollars in anticipation of the further depreciation of the peso.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, however, said that dollar remittances would likely pick up in the fourth quarter as OFWs send money to their families for tuition fees in October and for Christmas in December.

The peso dropped to 55.60 to $1 in August but had bounced back to 54 to $1 in the last two weeks.

The BSP is counting on increased OFW remittances this year to offset the slowdown in foreign direct investments and sluggish exports.

The BSP said the third quarter was usually slow for OFW remittances. The inflow of remittances usually peaks during the Christmas season up to the early months of the year.

The BSP said it was expecting overseas remittances to improve by 6 percent this year to about $7.6 billion from $7.2 billion in 2002. The rosier scenario is for the OFW inflow to hit the $8-billion mark.

The central bank said that more than $5 billion in OFW remittances passing through informal channels like couriers and money-changers were not being booked by the government.

The government said the deployment of Filipino workers overseas had slowed down compared to the previous year's level. The number of new hires and rehires had dropped especially for land-based workers.

The central bank said the number of high-paying OFWs increased this year, particularly for caregivers, engineers, and performing artists. However, the number of OFWs belonging to the low-income bracket declined.

The observed slowdown had prompted the central bank to assume a flat growth in OFW remittances this year in drafting its external payments target. Dollar remittances form part of the country's current account, a big component of the balance-of-payments reflecting movements in trade.

The labor department is targeting to deploy a million Filipinos to overseas employment. In 2002, the POEA said the level of freshly hired and re-hired reached 891,908 versus 867,599 the previous year.

Foreign exchange inflows from overseas workers comprise nearly 85 percent of the country's gross dollar earnings.

Commercial banks report about 85 percent of the total remittances while foreign exchange firms report 10 percent. The data on the remaining 5 percent comes from offshore banking units.

# Investments in first 6 months rose 47%

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

INVESTMENTS pumped in by new corporations surged by almost 47 percent to P12 billion in the first semester of 2003 from year-ago level despite a slowdown in the actual number of fresh entrants, the Securities and Exchange Commission reported yesterday.

SEC documents showed that while the number of newly registered domestic stock corporations and partnerships dropped by 4.6 percent to 7,078 from 7,422 in the first semester of last year, the amount of paid-up capital generated had increased.

The decline in the number of new players was attributed by analysts to uncertainties that hounded the country in the first six months of the year—such as the regional outbreak of killer virus SARS, the US-led military campaign in Iraq as well as the peace and order concerns in Southern Philippines.

New investments generated from paid-up capital of new corporations had been flat over the last two years after dropping from P15 billion in 2000. In 2002, new equity amounted to P8.21 billion while in 2001, the amount generated was P8.15 billion.

Among the new companies registered with the SEC was GSIS Properties Inc., a unit of state-owned pension fund Government Service Insurance System.

GSIS Properties registered a paid-up capital of P8 billion, accounting for the bulk of the new equity investments in the first semester. The new unit has an authorized capital of P30 billion and a subscribed capital of P10 billion.

# Higher power rates seen to lure investors

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

INCREASED power rates in the Visayas are expected to perk up investor interest in power generating projects particularly in Panay, which is suffering from rolling brownouts.

Erico Bucoy, executive director of Aklan Electric Cooperative, said in a telephone interview the increase in the rates was a welcome news to several companies that had approached Akelco for possible supply purchase agreements.

Bucoy said there were at least five investors who were considering to build power facilities in Panay.

"They were hard put on matching the grid's artificially low rates, but the investors could see the new rates more competitive," he said.

The utility executive said Akelco had put off talks with Trans-Asia Power Generation Corp., which previously said it would sell at P4-P5 per kilowatthour against the grid price of about P3 per kWh.

"Distributors in the Visayas would find it hard to justify to consumers why it would be buying at higher prices from new supply sources," Bucoy said.

He said that aside from Trans-Asia, Akelco had been approached by Kepco Philippines Corp. (Kephilco), Victorias Bioenergy and Power One.

Trans-Asia and Power One both eye building 24-MW diesel-fired plants in Aklan while Kephilco plans to build a coal-fired plants in Iloilo.

# Yasay backs SEC moves vs abusive receivers

FORMER Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr. threw his support behind the SEC's action in purging unscrupulous rehabilitation receivers who "place personal benefit over the interest of distressed companies." He also questioned the action of the Court of Appeals in stopping the SEC from replacing a receiver who was found collecting commissions and charging exorbitant fees.

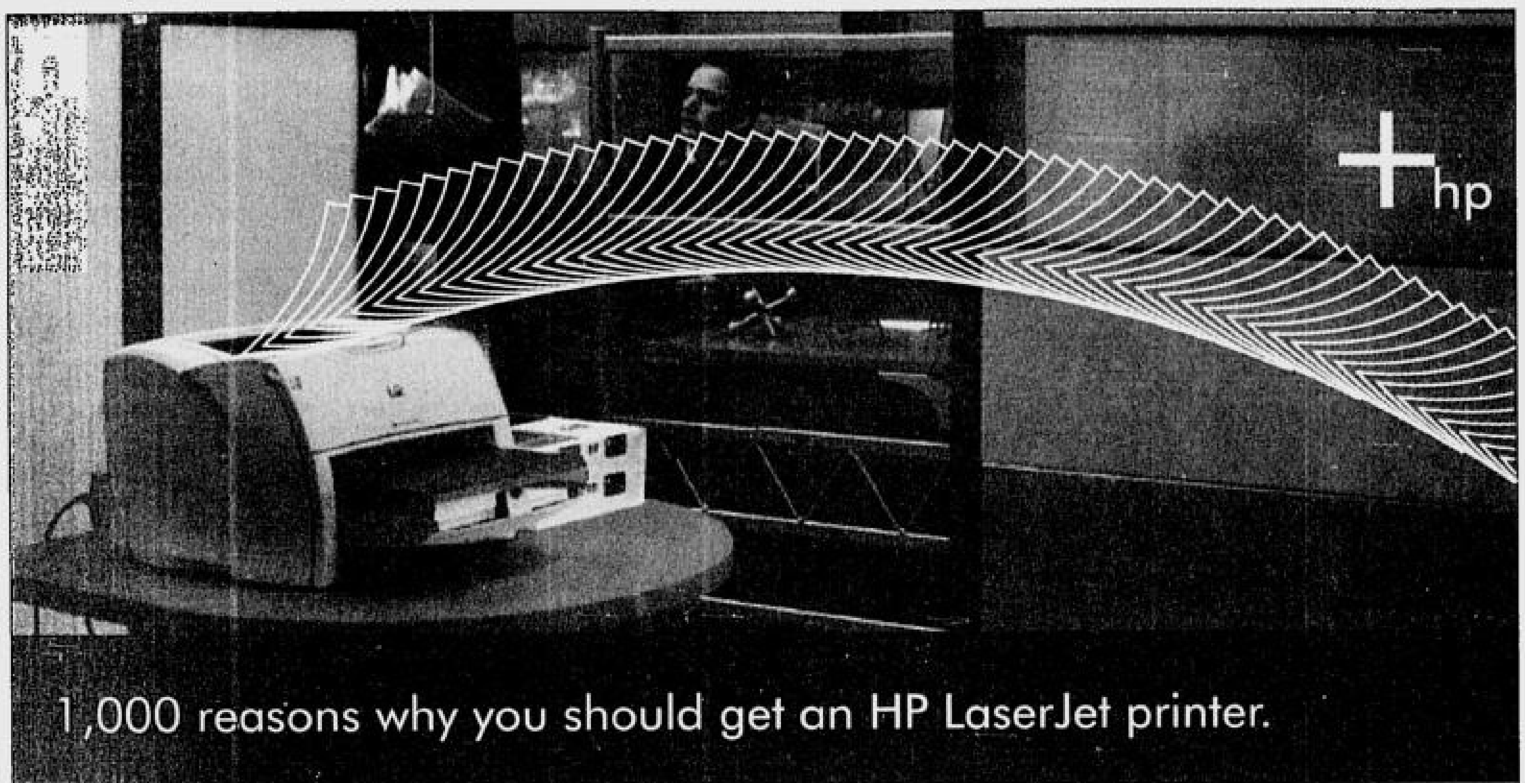
Yasay rallied behind the SEC in the wake of reports that certain SEC-appointed and court-appointed rehabilitation receivers have been "milking companies under receivership."

"With such acts, they are seriously jeopardizing efforts to restore these companies to their normal operations-and even to enhance their viability," he added.

Known for his no-nonsense policy against abusive receivers and for his commitment to "bring back to financial health" distressed firms, Yasay chastised these receivers for concentrating on "rehabilitating themselves," not the companies and the creditors they have been assigned to help and protect.

The former SEC chair noted that some receivers have taken advantage of their position. "Some are reportedly receiving incredible amounts as commissions over and above exorbitant monthly advances and fees."

"It is unconscionable," Yasay said, "for a receiver to demand a commission from a successful deal since part of his work is the preservation of the assets of the company on rehab. That is taking advantage of a company that is already down on its knees."



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# Nestlé overrules Manila

IN a stunning reversal, the Swiss headquarters of Nestlé on Monday ordered its Manila office to take back the award of its P1.4-billion advertising contract from a Filipino agency and instead hand it back to a French multinational.

The order from the Vevey headquarters is to re-award the hotly contested contract to the Publicis Group, effectively nullifying the appointment given by Nestle Philippines president/CEO Salvador Pigem only last Sept. 25 to the Advertising and Marketing Associates (AMA), the local advertising agency that had been servicing Nestlé for the past four decades.

Ironically, Pigem, a Spaniard who had previously served with Magnolia, cleared with Vevey HQ, according to the grapevine, before handing the advertising contract over to AMA after the latter broke off from its joint venture with Publicis.

Despite Publicis being the multinational agency of record, AMA managed to win over the bread-and-butter account because of its "battle-tested" ties with the local Nestle.

Ironically, it was the Nestle account that prompted AMA in 1999, despite it being the largest all-Filipino advertising agency at that time, to agree to a merger with the French agency.

Under the globalization business, Nestle, like any other multinational, decided to streamline servicing of its worldwide advertising requirements under one global umbrella, which happens to now be the Publicis Group.

Rather than lose its main client, the De Joyas of AMA swallowed their pride and agreed to play second billing to the French agency, until they found out, too late, that the French agency had actually controlled even Basic, the other local partner in the new merged agency that came to be known as PublicisAMA.

In the face of labor and criminal complaints that it had violated the constitutional ownership ceiling of 30 percent, Publicis hired GMA lawyer Villaraza and Angangco, which took the French agency as client unknown to managing partner F. Arthur Villaraza.

Villaraza, who was in London at that time, found out later that one of the supposedly "significant shareholder" in behalf of another Publicis local subsidiary, Hemisphere Leo Burnett, is none other than Greg Garcia, the "Incredible Hulk" advertising consultant of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson!

But that is another twist to a still unfolding drama.

### GSIS showdown

THE IRASCIBLE Winston Garcia should remember his anger management lessons today when he meets the GMA Cabinet in Malacañang.

Originally scheduled for yesterday, Garcia will make a presentation about the state of finances of the Government Service Insurance System in the presence of Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, whom the Cebuano lawyer had accused, among other agencies, as having failed to remit billions in GSIS premiums.

According to the grapevine, the appointment papers of the Garcia replacement, Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, a protégé of both Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, is ready for the President's signature, should Macapagal-Arroyo decide Garcia no longer enjoys her confidence.

## COCKTALES

*Victor C. Agustin*

### Heard through the grapevine

FOR the second time, the Supreme Court has ordered Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Eleuterio Guerrero, who had wanted to inhibit himself, to resume hearings on the multibillion-peso estate of Banco Filipino/BF Homes patriarch Tomas Aguirre.

Next lined up to take the witness stand is estate administrator Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, who has been fighting all the way to the Supreme Court efforts of his other siblings to put him precisely on the witness stand and subject the playboy polo player under withering cross-examination.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# Firm invests P1B in cigarette paper venture

**By Michelle V. Remo**

AN AUSTRIAN-BASED paper manufacturer has invested P1 billion in the Philippines for the establishment of a manufacturing plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and to take advantage of the expected increased demand for paper from the cigarette industry.

Tann Philippines Inc., the local subsidiary of Tann-Papier GmbH and a member of Trierenherg Holding of Austria, said the firm's industrial facility produces ripping papers and packaging materials for cigarettes. Trierenberg Holding services the paper requirements of Philip Morris International for the latter's worldwide marketing.

The manufacturing facility was opened last Sept. 5 at the First Philippine Industrial Park in Laguna.

Tann Philippines said it decided to open the Batangas plant after knowing of the intention of cigarette firm Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. to increase production and expand market coverage.

Aside from Philip Morris' paper requirements for the local market, Tann Philippines will also supply paper products to Philip Morris' affiliates in Indonesia and Korea, and to other clients in the Asia-Pacific region.

Philip Morris recently opened a $300-million manufacturing facility at the First Philippine Industrial Park to address the steadily increasing demand for cigarettes.

"Our investment is a statement of our confidence in the long-term viability and prospects for the Philippine economy," said Tann Philippines president and chief executive officer Lukas Jungreithmeir.

# Ford allots $50M to push RP . . .

From page B1

timum capacity at 40,000 units a year. The introduction of new vehicle programs and additional volume from exports are critical to boost production to optimum capacity. These actions are expected double our labor force to almost 1,250 from our present 650 workers," Ford said.

Earlier yesterday, the Ford chair visited the Santa Rosa plant to meet the employees and dealers. He also launched Ford Philippines' three new products: the Ford Everest 7-seater SUV, the Ford Lynx RS 2.0L and the Ford Escape 3.0L.

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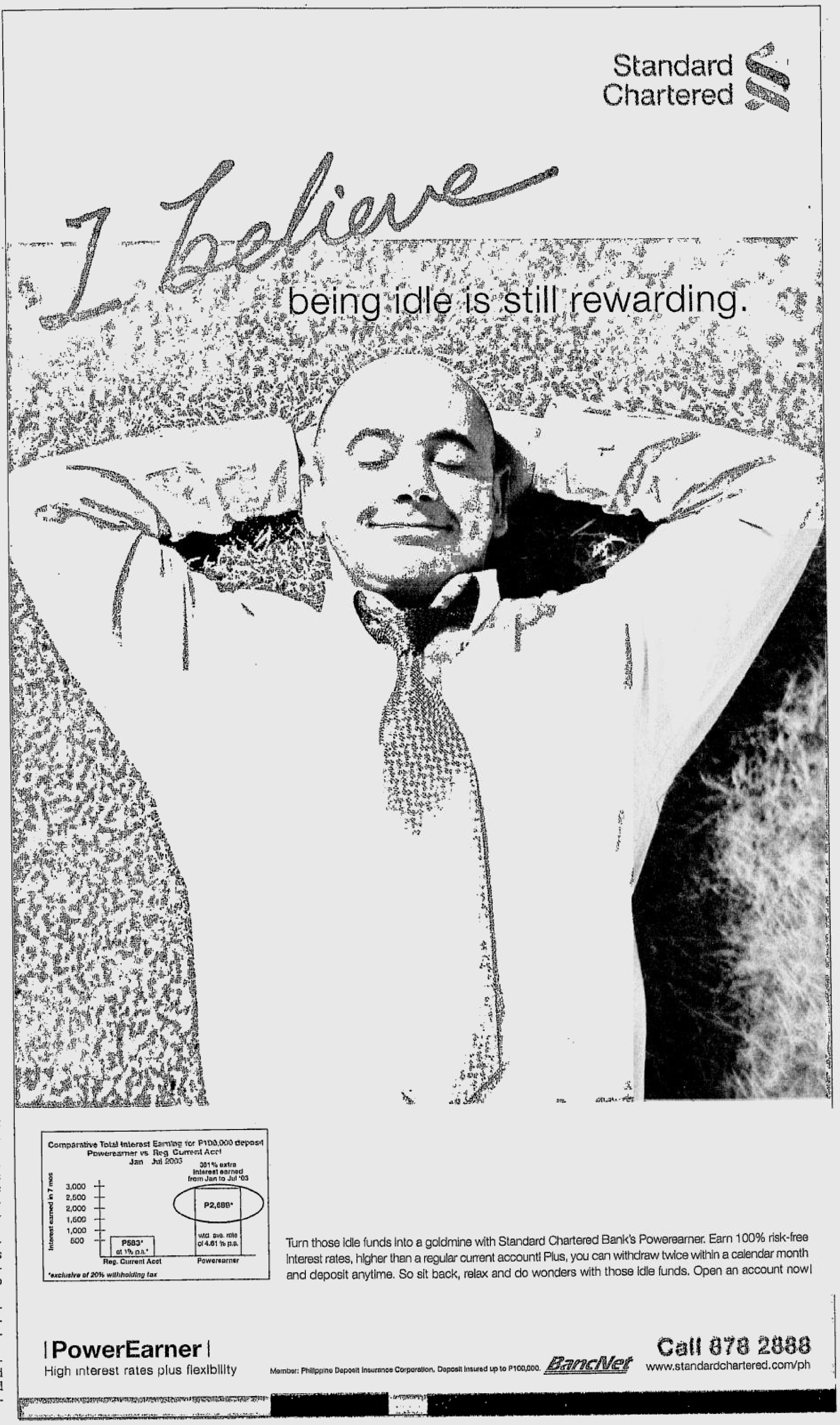
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# German firm submits new offer

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEBT-STRAPPED Deutsche Telekom has submitted a new offer to entice Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd. to buy its 24.8-percent stake in leading Philippine mobile phone provider Globe Telecom, two months after the first round of negotiations bogged down.

Compared with its previous all-or-nothing position, Deutsche Telekom is now open to selling only a portion of its stake to Ayala and SingTel, making it easier to hammer out a deal, analysts said.

"The offer covers 37,674,681 common shares of Globe," Ayala managing director Rufino Luis Manotok told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that Ayala and Singtel had made a counter-offer to buy only 20 percent out of Deutsche Bank's 24.8 percent in Globe. As Ayala and SingTel own 32.7 percent and 29.1 percent of Globe, respectively, the shares they offered to buy would allow them to raise their interest to 42.7 percent and 39.1 percent.

The acquisition of the additional 20-percent stake in Globe Telecom will cost Ayala and SingTel a combined $400-$500 million, equivalent to about $200-$250 million each, based on analysts' estimates.

"The block itself is very difficult to sell, but if Deutsche Telekom sells only a portion of it, the rest will probably go to the open market, and this will benefit Globe because it will increase liquidity," said Jomar Lacson, an analyst at independent think-tank TeamResearch.

"But the fact that they offered it again to Ayala and SingTel does not mean that they have given up the possibility of selling to other investors. They may still be talking to others, but under the right of first offer, they have to offer the same terms to its existing partners first," Lacson said.

Deutsche Telekom's stake in Globe is held by DeTeAsia Holding GmBH. Of the total stake held by the German firm, an estimated 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned via Asiacom—a joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by SingTel, and 20 percent by the German firm.

Manotok said Ayala and SingTel would jointly review their options and determine whether they would exercise their right of first refusal during a 45-day period after Deutsche Telekom's formal submission of a new offer dated Oct. 13.

The Ayala group, has always said it was interested in purchasing a portion of Deutsche Telekom's stake if the latter would submit a new offer. Net equity earnings from Globe Telecom, the second biggest cellular phone provider in the Philippines and the pioneer in GSM technology, accounted for about 45 percent of Ayala's profit.

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# RFM urged to put up facility in FTI complex

STATE-OWNED Food Terminal Inc. is in talks with food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp., which has ventured into the logistics and cold storage business, for the establishment of a new facility in the 100-hectare FTI industrial complex in Taguig.

In an interview during the celebration of RFM's 45th anniversary Monday night, company president and CEO Jose Concepcion III told reporters that the company was studying FTI's invitation to invest in the complex.

"It's a perfect venue. We're being asked to put up a new ice plant there," he said.

However, he said RFM was keen on using only a portion of the FTI complex as it still had some room to expand in its 2-hectare facility in Manggahan, Pasig where its existing P400-million cold storage facility was located.

He estimated that the planned expansion of the cold storage capacity would cost about P200 million.

The government, which had wanted to privatize FTI, is now keen on offering the vacant portions of the industrial estate to private investors. The contracts of existing tenants are likewise being reviewed and renegotiated to adjust lease rates to current market rates.

The government hopes to generate cash from FTI's prime property by segregating different parcels instead of selling the entire company and its facilities.

Last year, RFM's property unit Philippine Townships Inc. entered into a joint venture with Iglo Sdn Bhd of Malaysia to put up a fully integrated cold storage business in Pasig. The 50-50 joint venture now provides cold chain services that benefit Philippine growers and food processors.

*Doris C. Dumlao*

# Shares down . . .

From page B1

the correction was understandable after a three-day run-up, which brought the composite index to its highest level since April last year.

"From hereon, we expect the market to undergo a slight consolidation and move sideways ahead of the weekend," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

He said investor sentiment was also pulled down by accusations from an opposition senator that PresidentMacapagal-Arroyo has allegedly been using public funds to finance her presidential campaign for the May 2004 elections.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 19.31 points to 1,365.12, having traded between 1,361.36 and 1,386.41.

Turnover was 365.38 million shares worth P760.56 million after 454.70 million shares worth P892.66 million on Monday.

Gainers led losers 38 to 18, with 47 stocks unchanged.

Liu said the outcome of US President George W. Bush's visit on Oct. 18 will likely dictate the market's direction, particularly if new economic agreements were to be forged between the two countries.

Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development said the market's momentum remained positive on the back of an expected global economic recovery and improved earnings prospects of selected companies.

After the index's 80.00-point gain in the past three trading days, it needed to re-trace the 1,340 level before testing 1,380 again and then 1,440 going forward, Tan said.

"The market needs to slow down a bit," he added. *AFP*

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(Solutions in Tough Times)

In tough times, executives are finding themselves digging their heels deep, in search of NEW IDEAS. The only real wealth is found in NEW IDEAS and somebody willing to act on it. Every good leader is also a learner. The speakers will share NEW IDEAS that will bring new revelation and opportunity as well as equip us to make a difference in the business world!

Matt Thompson, Director for Technology Outreach of Sun Microsystems, Inc., will be one of the speakers for the Conference Session on ***"If You Want to Go Fishing, Get New Fishing Gear."*** He has 12 years of software engineering experience has been shared between building integrated development environments, productivity tools and object-oriented frameworks. In the last several years, he has been focusing on enabling the ceation of software by leveraging Sun's key technologies (like the Java platform), and now spends most of his time focusing on delivering Sun's technology strategy to developers worldwide.

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 14, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.75 | 41,100 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 46 | 46 | 45 | 45 | 235,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34 | 34 | 125,000 |
| Export And Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.71 | 0.78 | 0.71 | 0.78 | 2,840,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 29 | 29.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 259,100 |
| Philippine National Bank | 27 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 149,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 5,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 40,500 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 7,000 |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 10,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1500 | 1510 | 1500 | 1510 | 20 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 290,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1270 | 1275 | 1270 | 1275 | 2,270 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 26.5 | 27 | 18,500 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.71 | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.72 | 2,600,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 785 | 785 | 770 | 775 | 209,320 |
| Island Info And Tech Inc. | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 6,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.047 | 0.048 | 3,300,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.81 | 0.82 | 0.79 | 0.82 | 21,220,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 725 | 725 | 705 | 705 | 485,960 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 460,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 62,700,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 126,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22 | 22 | 334,600 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.06 | 2.06 | 2.02 | 2.06 | 1,921,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil And Energy | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 50,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 7,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.8 | 2.85 | 313,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 50,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 50,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 7,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 260,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30 | 30 | 25,300 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 25,400 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 20,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 56 | 56.5 | 56 | 56.5 | 58,800 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 62.5 | 63 | 62.5 | 63 | 325,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 34,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 2,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.95 | 4.95 | 4.8 | 4.85 | 3,894,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.45 | 3.5 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 5,530,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.037 | 0.037 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 3,100,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 100,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 100,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 9,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 20,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 25,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.61 | 0.62 | 8,210,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 200,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 360,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 690,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 1,000,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 500,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 19 | 19 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 966,500 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.095 | 0.1 | 0.095 | 0.1 | 1,200,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.66 | 1.68 | 1.58 | 1.58 | 67,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 2.06 | 2.1 | 2.06 | 2.1 | 310,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.04 | 1.08 | 7,006,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 10,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 13,090,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1,010,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 80,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 200,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc | 0.3 | 0.38 | 0.3 | 0.38 | 40,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.98 | 1 | 0.98 | 1 | 80,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 1,400,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 1,200 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 960,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 310,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 40,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 50,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 390,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 15,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 46,400 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series S | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,400 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,600 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,400 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Far Eastern University | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 250 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 3,035,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 100,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 900,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 70,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 5,670,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.16 | 9,936,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 200,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.205 | 0.22 | 0.205 | 0.22 | 650,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 180,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 20,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 16,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6,666,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 600,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 1,350,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 53,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 78,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0038 | 0.0038 | 0.0038 | 0.0038 | 20,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 320,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 1,900,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 2,000,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 15,600,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 300,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

**GLOBAL Equities Inc.** was slapped a fine of P100,000 by the Securities and Exchange Commission for the late filing of its annual report. The company is seeking reconsideration of the penalty.

***

**THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission** exempted the merger of MBf Inc. and IPVG Corp. from the mandatory tender offer rule.

***

**NEXTSTAGE Inc.** will undergo a quasi-reorganization to wipe off the company's accumulated deficiency as of June 30 this year. Also, the company will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26 with record date of Oct. 27.

***

LIM Chan Lok resigned as chair and COO of **Salcon Power Corp.** Wong Fong Fui was elected chair. Also, the company declared a cash dividend of P0.15 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Oct. 28. The dividend is payable on Nov. 11. The company's annual stockholders' meeting will be held on Jan. 14.

***

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved **SPI Technology Inc.**'s property dividend declaration of its entire share holdings and warrant holdings in eTelecare International Inc. to its shareholders of record as of Aug. 22.

***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| October 14, 2003 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.847099 | 1 | 54.581 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007802 | 0.00921 | 0.5027 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.409572 | 1.664 | 90.8228 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.1096 | 0.129383 | 7.0619 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.645753 | 0.762311 | 41.6077 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.641061 | 0.756773 | 41.3054 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.49187 | 0.580653 | 31.6926 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.587203 | 0.693193 | 37.8352 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.247066 | 2.652661 | 144.7849 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.225893 | 0.266667 | 14.555 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.490446 | 0.598972 | 31.6009 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000101 | 0.000119 | 0.0065 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021704 | 0.025621 | 1.3984 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.230634 | 0.272264 | 14.8604 |
| Euro | Euro | 1 | 1.1805 | 64.4329 |
| ArgentinaPeso | 0.299328 | 0.353357 | 19.2866 | |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.299011 | 0.352983 | 19.2662 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134599 | 0.158894 | 8.6726 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018691 | 0.022065 | 1.2043 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.22295 | 0.263193 | 14.3653 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.075803 | 0.089485 | 4.8842 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.508249 | 0.599988 | 32.7479 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.121551 | 0.143491 | 7.8319 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.014732 | 0.017391 | 0.9492 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.12182 | 0.143808 | 7.8492 |
| Korea | Won | 0.00074 | 0.000873 | 0.0476 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.111188 | 0.131258 | 7.1642 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020169 | 0.02381 | 1.2996 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025188 | 0.029735 | 1.623 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000531 | 0.000627 | 0.0342 |

# Asian diversity a roadblock to fair trade?

**COMMENTARY**

By Luis Lorenzo Jr.

EVEN as a grade school student, we were asked to memorize the inaugural speech of the late John F. Kennedy, not because of who he was but because of the universality of his messages.

One such endearing quotation that up to now has stuck to my consciousness says something to the effect that a society that cannot provide for the many who are poor, cannot save the few who are rich.

On board a Continental Airlines flight off Cancun last month, I cannot help but reflect on these words of one of the greatest American presidents that ever lived.

I cannot also help but wonder why the big powers at the recently-concluded ministerial meet cannot seem to grasp the sensitive predicament of the developing nations and share in its urgency. So today, allow me to present our view in the form of an analogy.

## The iceberg and the paper boat

The protection and support structure of developed countries typifies that of an iceberg. Tariffs are but the tip of the iceberg, seen above the waterline. Subsidies for production and exports, mostly trade distorting, account for the greater mass of the iceberg below the waterline.

Recent trends on the OECD group of developed countries show that subsidies in terms of Producer Subsidy Equivalent or PSE have approached 70 percent of the value of agricultural production.

In the case of developing countries like the Philippines, the average tariffs on agriculture may be higher but there is virtually nothing below the waterline, very much like a paper boat floating on the water.

Over the recent years, domestic support for agriculture in the Philippines averaged less than 4 percent of the value of agricultural production.

Contrary to what the developed countries would like us to believe, their icebergs are the true perils to international multilateral trade, not the developing countries' paper boats.

Forcing the developing countries to drop their only means of protection, that is tariffs, without corresponding reforms in the developed countries' subsidies structure, literally means obliteration of the developing countries from the sea of trade—sacrificed, so to speak, in the infernal altar of free but unfair trade, causing the reversal of developing countries to becoming neocolonies.

## Asian diversity

To us in Asia, this view ought to register even further. Asia represents a microcosm of the membership of the World Trade Organization just as heterogeneous as there are as many countries, just as perplexing as there are as many cultures.

Most of the people of Asia, however, are rural-based and depend mostly on agriculture. This is why the Cancun episode of the WTO, and its lessons on agricultural reform espoused by the developing countries, should have been a significant common ground for Asia. But that might be jumping to a conclusion too soon.

On July 18, 2003, under the leadership of Indonesia and the Philippines, the Alliance for Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanisms, a statement and a declaration in Geneva, was signed by 14 other countries namely Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. From 16, the membership of the Alliance grew to 33 in Cancun.

Also in Cancun, the G-21 Group faced off with the US-EU power bloc and demanded the dismantling of $300 billion in export subsidies it gives its farmers each year undermining millions of farmers around the developing world.

The members of this new group are China, the Philippines, Thailand, India and Pakistan in Asia; Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, in Latin America, and South Africa and Egypt in the African continent. G-21 became G-22 with the addition of Kenya. Significantly the major players that hard-balled the Singapore issues were also Asians.

On the final day in Cancun, it was at the Green Room that negotiations broke down on the Singapore issues that have been pressed upon the Third World, mainly by the Europeans since the 1996 Singapore Ministerial.

Strong opposition to the Singapore issues were dealt by Malaysia and India but it was the intransigence of the South Korean trade minister that delivered the final blow.

South Korea is part of the G-9 countries that sponsored the Singapore issues. The eight others were Japan, Taiwan, Israel, Bulgaria, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The group became ten after Mauritius enlisted.

We could have brought home an agreement to relax Western patent protections so that poor countries could manufacture medicines to fight epidemics like AIDS while the WTO could have opened up agricultural markets in the United States and the European Union for developing country products. But rich countries could not put off talks on more intractable issues like Europe and Japan's proposed new global rules for investment—an effort opposed by poor countries as a distraction from the development focus of Doha.

This leads me therefore to ask: Is Asian diversity a roadblock to multilateral fair trade?

## Asean moves forward

What happens after Cancun of course is a draw-down to regional initiatives among countries espousing geographical commonalities and bilateral talks between developed and developing countries.

Last week, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) put the finishing touches to an action plan transforming the region into a giant free trade zone. The zone will be in place by year 2010 for the six original members of Asean, namely Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and by 2015 to include Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

The pact will bring together the ten countries as a single market of 520 million people forming a huge consumer base whose free flow of goods, services, trade and investment will promote greater socio-economic development and reduce poverty.

Asean has also negotiated separate frameworks for the inclusion of China, India and Japan into the concept under respective modalities that will still be defined.

Speaking in Bali, Indonesia, the President of the Philippines asked Asean to rally behind the pursuit of fair trade policies in the global market.

I say it today as I have said it before, the Philippines has already paid the price of unbridled free trade. It is now the turn of the few who are rich to make sacrifices.

## Bridging the great divide

The great divide in Cancun can be bridged. I am glad that even the Americans and the Europeans say so because in fairness to Japan and South Korea, the latter countries do not export their trade distortions.

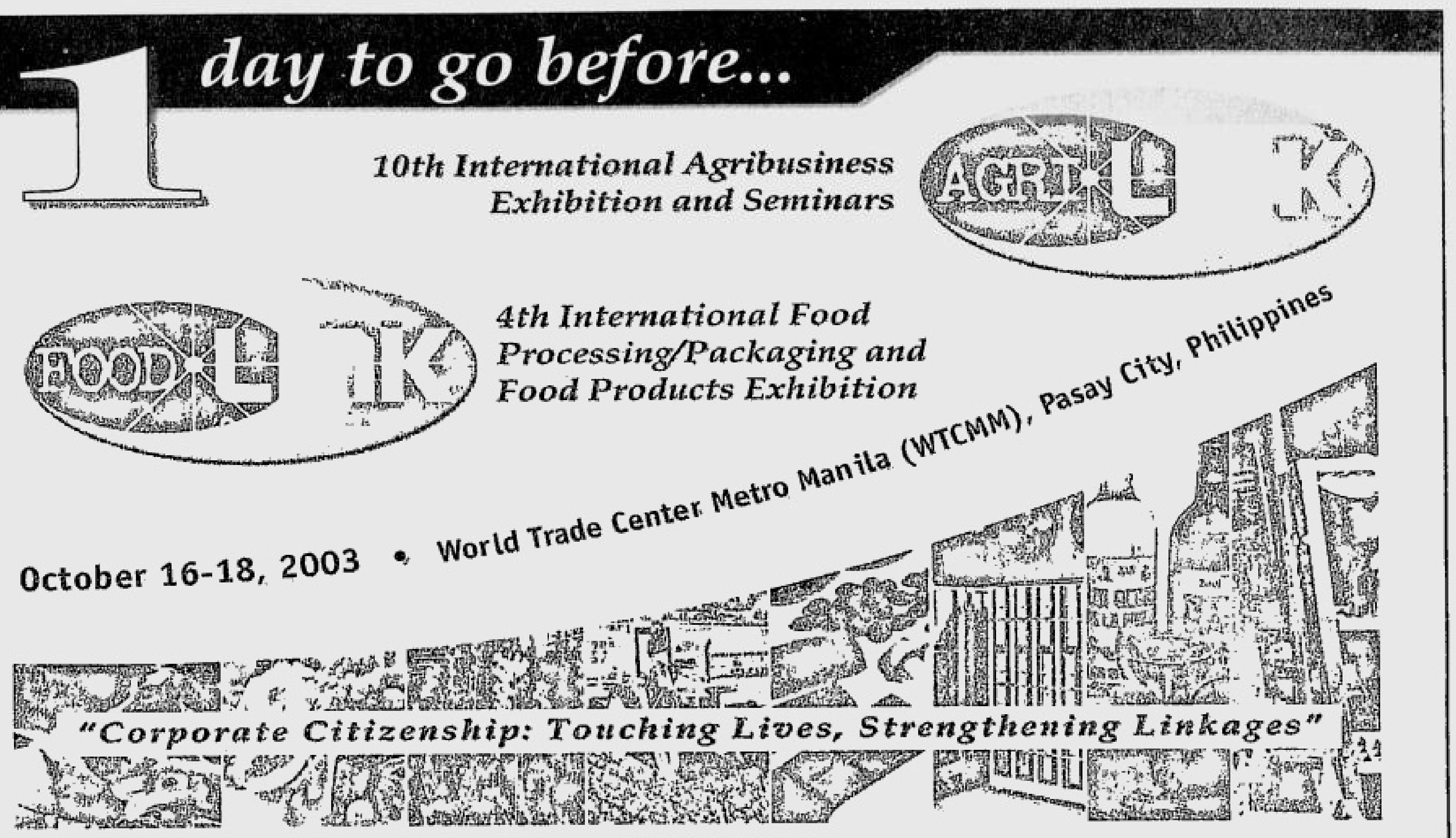
Rescinding polemics, the real issues on the table of WTO are gut issues like food security and strategic sectors' survival that weigh beyond employment and social structures as well as political stability and even cultural integrity.

I believe the United States, being the only superpower, must engage its natural role as lead statesman not only in geopolitics and counterterrorism but also in global economics and trade. This role has been imbedded in its history and it will be good for its long-term interests to invest in fairness rather than imposition.

Developing countries, as positive contributors to global economy because they are able to flex under a world of fair trade, will bear less demand on the generosity and altruism of developed countries that we all know is not bottomless and has domestic political costs.

*(The author is the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture)*

LORENZO



1 day to go before...

10th International Agribusiness Exhibition and Seminars

AGRI LINK

FOOD LINK

4th International Food Processing/Packaging and Food Products Exhibition

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**PROGRAM OF SEMINARS/COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS**

**DAY 1 - OCTOBER 16, 2003 - THURSDAY**

**SEMINARS** *(Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)*

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Ammonium Nitrate Water Solution for Mangoes** *by:* Inca Plastics Phils., Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- **Presentation on the Growout Culture of Pampano (Trachinotus Blochii) and Mangrove Jack (Lutjanus Argentimaculatus)** *by:* Santeh Feeds Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- **Cost-Reducing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technologies in Vegetable Production** *by:* Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) (Seminar Rm. 2)

**COOKING DEMONSTRATION** *(Venue: Hall A WTCMM)*

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Roasted Organic Chicken** *by:* Eva Rose Pua - Delifresh
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm *by:* PhilFoodex

**DAY 2 - OCTOBER 17, 2003 - FRIDAY**

**SEMINARS** *(Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)*

10:30 am - 5:30 pm
- **Capability Enhancement Seminar on SME Processors** (1. DTI's Support to the Capability Enhancement of the SME Food Processors to be Globally Competitive 2. An Overview of the US Bio Terrorism Act 3. Requirements & Regulations Needed by the Food Processors 4. Good Food Processing Practices 5. Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures 6. Introduction to Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points 7. Food & Packaging Trends) *by:* Department of Trade and Industry (Seminar Rm. 1)

10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **Why Liquid Feeding Will Work for You? WONDERing on How to Eliminate Odors? Go Organic!** *by:* The Infarmco Group (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Using Alpha-Galacosidase Enzymes for Corn-Soya Diets/Plant Extracts as Natural Feed Additive in Animal Health and Production** *by:* Philchema (Seminar Rm. 2)

**COOKING DEMONSTRATION** *(Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)*

11:00 am - 12:30 pm **Honeybee Production** *by:* Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm by Tefal
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Business in Meat Processing - Ham Making (Chicken & Pork)/ Embutido** *by:* Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spices & Food Mix House
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm **Cooking with Herbs** *by:* Bert Clemena - Herbs Society (OPTA)

**DAY 3 - OCTOBER 18, 2003 - SATURDAY**

**SEMINARS** *(Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)*

10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **Enhancing Piglet Performance with Ready to Use Antibodies / Protected n-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Fertilium™ Improves Litter Size in Sows** *by:* Agrispecialist, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- **Food Safety of Genetically Modified Corn and Soybean in the Philippines** *by:* Monsanto Philippines, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Lifetime Income Through Mango Farming** *by:* Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
- **Go Organic: It can Mean Your Life!** (1. Organic Rice Farming 2. Organic Vegetables/ Salad Greens Cultivation 3. Village Level Sasso Free Range Chicken Growing) *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association (Seminar Rm. 2)

**COOKING DEMONSTRATION** *(Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)*

9:30 am - 11:00 am **Ornamental Plants Production & Landscaping** *by:* Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
11:00 am - 12:30 pm **Meat Specialties for Business (Siomai, Korean BBQ, Roast Chicken, Skinless Longanisa)** *by:* Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spicies and Food Mix House
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm **Organic Vegetable Power** *by:* Shai Tamayo - My Goodness (OPTA)

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# Wall St. rally sends Asian stocks up

SINGAPORE—Japanese and South Korean stocks soared on Tuesday after strong results from Motorola Inc. spurred Wall Street to 2003 highs, but most Asian stocks erased early gains.

Japan's Nikkei average surged over 2 percent to break the 11,000 barrier, driven by big banks such as Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group.

But MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares ex-Japan lost some steam to shed 0.78 percent, after earlier chalking up a three-year high for the 11th day running.

Motorola, the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, posted on Monday a quarterly profit twice the estimates of analysts and forecast stronger-than-expected sales in its current fourth quarter, sending US stocks soaring.

The Dow rose 0.93 percent at 9,764.38 and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 0.7 percent at 1,045.35—their highest closes since June 2002. The Nasdaq ended at its highest close since January last year at 1,933.53.

Japan's benchmark index shed some gains to close up 1.67 percent at a one-month high of 10,966.43, while the broad TOPIX index ended up 1.25 percent at 1,087.31, its highest close since June last year.

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and exporters such as Hyundai Motor Co. drove South Korea's benchmark index up 1.25 to end at a one-month high of 766.52.

Motorola's results earlier pushed up Singapore technology, but the benchmark index pulled back from 18-month highs to dip 0.8 percent.

Taiwan stocks also erased gains to end 0.57 percent lower at 5,938.42, down from a 17-month high, as tech shares such as United Microelectronics Corp. fell as investors cautiously awaited third-quarter results at home and in the US.

Focus would be on Intel Corp.'s third-quarter earnings later on Tuesday, with analysts hoping that the world's largest chip maker would post revenue growth as the semiconductor sector rebounded from its worst slump. *Reuters*

# Asean urged to integrate economies more quickly

SINGAPORE—Business leaders at the World Economic Forum's East Asia summit urged Southeast Asian countries on Tuesday to integrate their economies more quickly after last week's Bali summit that failed to fast track the process.

A statement released at the end of the three-day summit here welcomed last week's commitment by the leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to remove all trade barriers within the region and create a common market by 2020.

"(But) the business community is urging Asean's leaders to strive for more rapid economic integration than the 2020 deadline agreed on in Bali," the statement said.

The statement appeared to echo views held by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his Singapore counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, who urged the other Asean leaders at their annual summit in Bali to speed up the integration plans.

The pair asserted the region must stay competitive in the face of regional and bilateral free trade arrangements after the recent collapse of the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, Mexico.

But their calls received little support from the other countries—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

"The two leaders made excellent presentations at the summit but not enough to convince the others to opt for a change," an official privy to the talks said in Bali last week.

Goh wanted the common market target date trimmed to 2015 while the bolder Thaksin proposed a 2012 deadline.

"If we wait for everyone to be ready, then 2020 will be too long and by that time I am quite old already," Thaksin said. *AFP*

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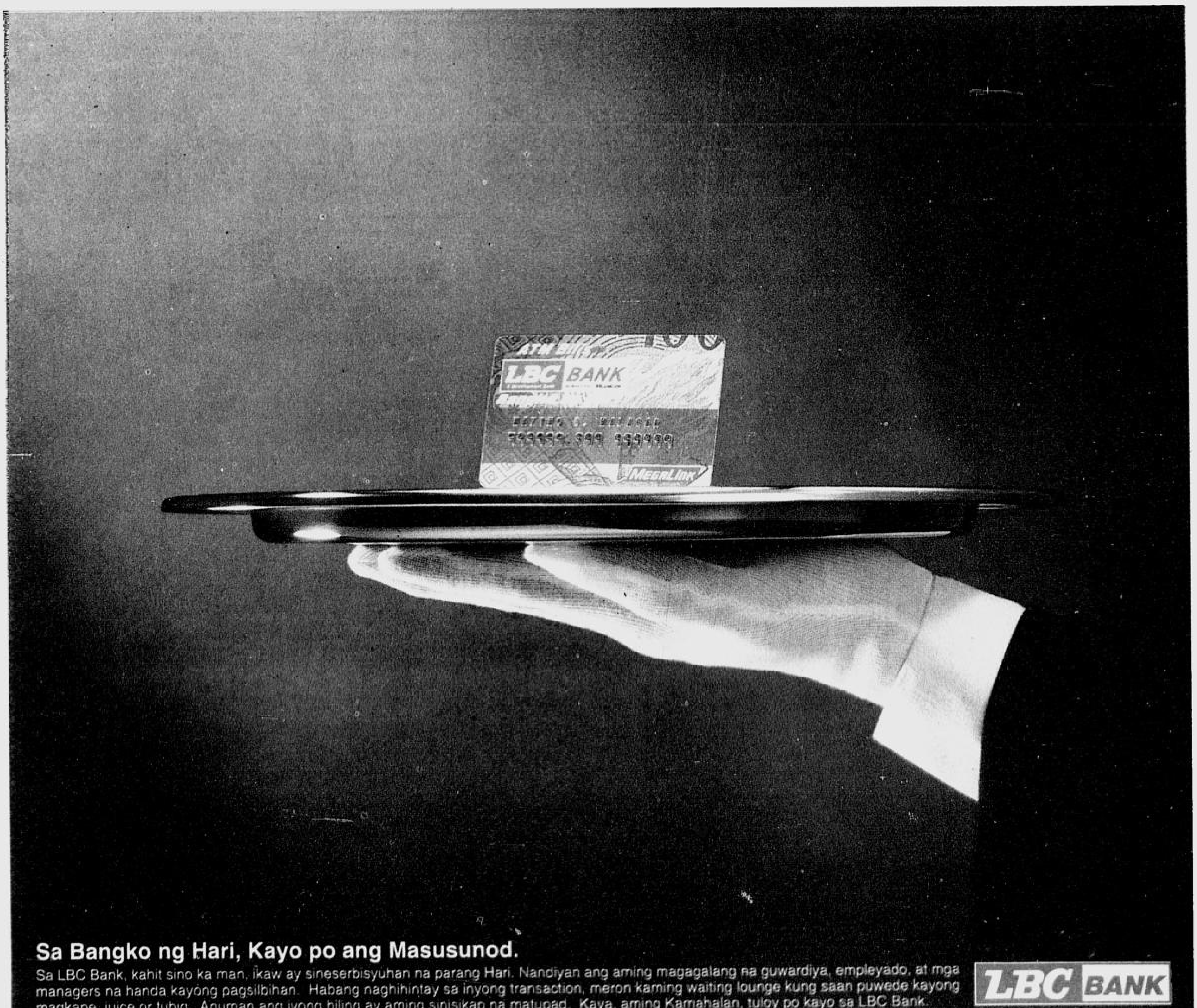

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# Support pouring in...

PHILIPPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

October 13, 2003

I am writing to enjoin other government employees like myself to exercise restraint and sobriety in dealing with the crisis in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS for brevity).

The GSIS is mandated to provide and administer social security benefits for government employees. Lately it has become apparent that despite the continuous inflow of funds from its compulsory members, the shadow of doubts is cast on its operation due to the late processing of loans and benefits.

Like the others, I am concerned with the current financial condition of the GSIS. I believe that the crisis at the GSIS could have been due to an oversight of functions in the past, however, the current administration of the GSIS is not solely to blame and the sooner we acknowledge it the sooner we will realize that shouting in the streets and demanding resignations are not the answer.

The System has opened dialogue with the different employee organizations on how to properly address the crisis, implementing reforms and improve the financial position of the GSIS. Government employees in this country are a disciplined people even in the face of crisis. Let us support all efforts to get the System back on its feet, for all our sakes.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ARRIOLA**
President, PESPA

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PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENTS

## MANIFESTO

The officers and members of the Philippine Association of Schools Superintendents (PASS) Inc., strongly support the reforms being instituted in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) by Atty. Winston F. Garcia, President and General Manager.

These reforms are urgent and important to sustain the actuarial soundness of the GSIS and to be able to fulfill its mandate and mission of finding a wide-ranging package of social security benefits to the members. To attain this mission, benefits dispensed must always be equated to actual premium contributions. Along the way, however, the GSIS has lost its focus on being a pension fund and instead it became a welfare agency.

The measures being instituted by the GSIS are causing untold inconveniences but all these are temporary. Ultimately, these reforms are meant to serve the members and the System as well.

(Sgd.) **DR. ELLENITA T. MARTINEZ**, PhD., CESO V
PASS President

---

CONFEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

## MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT TO THE REFORM AGENDA OF GSIS PGM WINSTON F. GARCIA

Recent events involving government employee organizations has compelled us, the Confederation of Government Employees Organizations, Inc. (COGEO), which is composed of more than one hundred professional and rank and file employee organizations throughout the country, to come up with a firm stand on the issues presently raised vis-à-vis the management of the pension fund of government employees.

We feel it our responsibility to make known that we support the efforts at reforms instituted by GSIS President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia in close coordination with the entire GSIS Board of Trustees. We specifically support PGM Garcia's determined drive to identify the System's premium and loan repayment receivables and the consequent collection thereof.

Moreover, we also take pride of the fact that the COGEO has always been consulted by PGM Garcia on his intended reforms and that we have always been partners of the GSIS Board of Trustees in working for the welfare and best interests of the GSIS members and their families now and when they reach retirement age.

Experience dictates that efforts to reform age-old policies, procedures and practices necessarily result in changes which more often than not are initially resisted by those who become directly affected by the same. We are confident that the initial resistance to such changes and improvements are temporary inconveniences. We know that the full benefits and effects of the reforms instituted by PGM Winston F. Garcia will be realized.

In this spirit and having a full understanding of the long term and permanent objectives of the System's reform initiatives, we offer our organization's support and assistance to these undertakings.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA NANAGAS-BACTAD**
Vice-President for Luzon

(Sgd.) **EULINIA M. VALDEZ-CO**
Vice-President for the Visayas

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO V. ROMANTICO**
Vice-President for Mindanao

---

- GSIS Reform Program lauded
- Temporary inconveniences will bring permanent benefits
- Full confidence in the present management of the GSIS stressed

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100% View of Taal & Golf! 280m²-Up Low DP Big Disct Interest Free! T6588704-Tolle

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### CAVITE

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

2BR T/HOUSE
own carport
ATTIC provision
near MALL

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(02)721-5510 * (02)721-5508
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1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.[illegible]/homes

30% DP
In easy installment,
as low as
*P6,606.52/mo.
*based on 20 years Pag-IBIG Loan

PHIL Ofc. GF New Guevent Bldg 52 Libertad St Mandaluyong City
HONGKONG Ofc: Shop 240 Worldwide Plaza Des Voeux Rd Central Tel (00852) 2522-3306
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Other units available Baguio, Cainta

BROKERS/AGENTS WELCOME!!!

### FACTORY/WHSE

P4.5M nr NAIA 8274972

### RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

### CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

ORCHD B P180T 8278618

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

2 Br 12,650 Pililia Mkti 5237927

P18T/mo 1BR Furn. 8278759

#### MANDALUYONG

Wack2 2BR 15T 09189420180

#### PASIG

ORTIGAS 1BR CONDO 75m² 3M 412-1825

ORTIGAS 1BR Condo FF 25T All-in 41218-25

Ortigas Cntr 2BR 115m² 20T 4121825

#### SAN JUAN

GH • 3BR Condo 23T-35T 4121825

### APARTMENT

#### MANILA

Apt 78417466/6682108

#### QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8T Std Lady 9124428

### ROOM & BOARD

nr SM CityP2500A/C 9271821

P150 / 12hrs P'QUE 827-5345

Prj3 new 3.5T stype 9137513

### BUSINESS RENTAL

MALATE OFFICES 526-8048

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

SALRY BUSN OFW 524-3197

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ayala Alabang Office Richville Corporate Twr GDinteriors 6MRM Conf Rm Training Rm Receiving Area Cashier 8/F 83 Sqm 8509157

CORINTHIAN PLAZA PASEO DE ROXAS
For rent 14sqm-930sqm
Call 811-3183, 811-3280
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OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (42m² up to 627m²) 887-6003

Pasay Park Ave Mansions 2BR /2TB Nr Taft Edsa Roxas 2 AC Units & Cabinets 8509157

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

#### MANILA

Malate Studio, 24hrs. Security nr DLSU, St Scho, PGH, PWU 523-5465

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### HONDA

98 Vtec 380T 5126763 • 09172093215

98Civic silver automatic 70th milegae 380T 0919-8237786

#### TOYOTA

89 Lancer EL A1cond 15mags 7229643 / 09228002295

'90LiteAce ltd 182T 4752630

95FX GL pwr steering dual ac w/stereo 240T 0919-8237786

98REVO GLX 1.8 29tmileage all pwr 470T 0919-8237786

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Trooper Surf Land Cruiser Delica Town Ace Space Gear Serena etc. A1 with Warranty T-in Financing nego 8328659 09178144526

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

L300 ADV. 741-1356

MB-100 7415897

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8066630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BILLIARDS

23T New Compit SR Impld 7767507

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### HOUSE & LOT

ERA
LEASE OR SALE
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
FOR AS LOW AS 20T A MONTH
GREENHILLS / MANDALUYONG
- 8 Wack Wack Road
- Greenhills Garden Square
- Governor's Place
- Gilmore Heights
- San Francisco Gardens BOHOL AVE. / CAPITOL HILLS, Q.C.
- El Jardin Del Presidente
- Golf Hill Terraces

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- Two Lafayette square
- One Roxas Triangle
- Ritz Towers
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- The Manhattan Square
- Pacific Plaza, Fort Bonifacio
- Essensa Tower

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- Paseo Center
- Burgundy Corporate Center
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- PhilAXA Tower
- 139 Corporate Center
- Cityland Herrera Tower

ORTIGAS CBD
- Richmonde Plaza
- Tektite Tower

BETH 0917- 8479276
867- 8913 to 17
www.ERAphilippines.com
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## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

### WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUC PLANS 2528373

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
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Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

### MISCELLANEOUS

Escorts • 0917-8263154 Pam

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMALE

Sales Promo GIRLS White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
BRANCH 37

IN RE PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY
IN CIVIL REGISTRY

BLANDA L. DE LA CRUZ-DUMLAO,
Petitioner

- versus - SP. PROC NO. 03-107256

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF MANILA,
Respondent.
x--------------------------------------x

**AMENDED ORDER**

In a verified Petition for Correction of Entry, the Petitioner prays, *inter alia*, that after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be rendered directing the Civil Registry of Manila to cause the correction of entries in the Certificate of Live Birth of the Petitioner, as to date of birth, from MAY 10, 1950 to MAY 9, 1950, her name from BLANDA MONTALBO to BLANDA LIWANAG DE LA CRUZ, and her father's name from JUAN MONTALBO to JUAN DE LA CRUZ.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the Petition be set for hearing on October 17, 2003 at nine o' clock in the morning before this Branch sitting at Rooms 426-427, Fourth Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of the said hearing and are ordered to show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published, at the expense of the Petitioner, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General and the Civil Registrar of the City of Manila with copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED
Manila, September 26, 2003.

(Sgd.) VICENTE A. HIDALGO
Judge

(PDI – October 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

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## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTING ASST. 20-44 yrs old, Acctg. Graduate 637-5930 1pm-5pm look for Ms. Janice or Ms. Louie

•BOOKKEEPER• min. 2yrs exp., computer lit., willing to work in Lipa, single Fax/email application to sales@docscandles.com

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FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 589-9958 4043528 528-0730

High School Principal 09176268428 Fx 8D 8151450

OFC MKTG STAFF (0920)3873544

OfcMktg. Stf 09162131716 JLO

Office Mngr w/ Acctng - Mktg Backgrnd / Accnt Exec for Printing. Exp. Req Fax Resume 547-3473

SALES ASST. col bckgrnd below 25yro 1pm-3pm W-Th only 3310 Matanzas St nr Cash & Carry Sprmrkt Mkt T8331285

Urgent for 5Star Hotel Concierge Waiter Exec Chef (Male) Butler (Female, with food & beverage experience) IMPLICARE INT'L 941 Aurora Blvd 4216808

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

WASHINGTON TUTORIAL CENTER Now Hiring Teachers •829-0978•

SALES AGENT, part/full time w. or w/o exp EARN HIGHEST POSSIBLE comm 897-5916 / 8975902 / 8976347

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given on the loss of S2 Lic# 21304N02 of Dr Renelle Ibarra.
(PDI-October 15, 2003)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531008 09178901851

•Earn Six-figure Income• Guaranteed 0920-9124125

Globe Auto Load (Mla) 2552608

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RTW Wholesaler 3738821

RTW/BLOUSES P28 727-4934

Xmas Lites 3/P100 Garlands Trees • T532-3909

ZAMBO BZNS 09189051567

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*SUMMONS*
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE : ESTATE OF RAQUEL S. ISRAEL, BY OSCAR LOPEZ,
*Petitioner, Administrator of the Estate,*

Vs.

MARY JOE ISRAEL, and CITY NATIONAL BANK
OF WEST VIRGINIA,
*Respondents,*

CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-C-436-K

To the above named Respondent: MARY JOE ISRAEL

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Pat C. Fragile, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 412 S. Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV 25801, an answer, including any related counter claim or defense you may have, to the Complaint filed against you in the above styled civil action, a true copy of which is herewith delivered to you. You are required to serve your answer within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgment, upon proper hearing and trial may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and you will be thereafter barred from asserting in another action any claim, cross petition or defense you may have, which must be asserted in the above styled civil action.

Dated: July 31, 2003

CLERK OF COURT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE ESTATE OF RAQUEL S. ISRAEL, BY OSCAR LOPEZ,
*Petitioner, Administrator of the Estate,*

Vs.

MARY JOE ISRAEL, and CITY NATIONAL BANK
OF WEST VIRGINIA,
*Respondents.*

CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-C-436-K.

AMENDED COMBINED ACTION TO QUIET TITLE AND DETERMINE
IF ALLEGED ADOPTED DAUGHTER IS RIGHTFUL HEIR

Comes now the Petitioner by counsel, and states and avers as follows:

1. That on the 19th day of November, 2002, Raquel S. Israel-Lopez died intestate, as a resident of Raleigh County, West Virginia, seized and possessed of certain real estate located in Raleigh County, West Virginia, to-wit, a one-eighth (1/8th) interest in a condominium unit consisting of 1,636 acres, located at 417 Carriage Drive Beckley, West Virginia and ownership of 104 Greenwood Drive, Beckley, West Virginia.

2. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, is the husband of the deceased, Raquel S. Israel and is the duly appointed, qualified, and acting Administrator of the Estate of Raquel S. Israel.

3. The Respondent, Mary Joe Israel is a resident of the Philippines Islands, and is an alleged adopted daughter of Raquel S. Israel.

4. That the Respondent, City National Bank of West Virginia claims an interest in the aforesaid properties pursuant to their Deeds of Trust dated October 11, 1996 of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, at Roll 101, page 1459 and October 13, 1998 at Roll 144, page 2804.

5. That the Administrator, Oscar Lopez, has made diligent efforts to contact Mary Joe Israel and have her to come forward and verify whether she is the adopted daughter of Raquel S. Israel and cooperate in the administration of this Estate.

6. The Administrator, Oscar Lopez has made efforts to garner records regarding the adoption of Mary Joe Israel from the Courts in the Philippines but such efforts have failed.

7. That as a result of the indebtedness on the real estate and without knowing for certain the heirs of the real estate it is inequitable for Oscar Lopez to be held chiefly responsible for the indebtedness and the Respondent, City National Bank has been uncooperative in arranging time for this Court to determine the appropriate owner or owners.

8. There is certain indebtedness on the real estate herein and there are no funds within the Estate to pay such indebtedness and it is in the best interest of the Estate and the heirs to sell the real estate.

9. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, has received an offer to purchase the condominium interest at a fair market value and said sale would be in the best interest of the Estate, and the heirs.

10. The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, has placed on the market the homeplace and has had some potential offers thereon and it would likewise be in the interest of the Estate and the heirs to sell the property.

WHEREFORE, The Petitioner, Oscar Lopez, prays as follows:

1. That the Court authorize the sale of the property as the best interest of the Estate and the heirs.

2. That the Court place one-half (1/2) of the net proceeds in escrow until such time as it can be determined if Mary Joe Israel is, in fact, a rightful heir to the Estate of Raquel S. Israel.

3. That the Court quiet title to the aforementioned property.

4. That the Court determine if Mary Joe Israel is, in fact, a rightful heir to the Estate of Raquel S. Israel.

5. That the Court stay foreclosure on the properties by City National Bank until true ownership thereof is resolved.

6. That the Petitioner have such other further relief as the Court may deem meet and proper.

7. That the Petitioner be awarded his attorney fees and costs for this action.

OSCAR LOPEZ
BY COUNSEL

(Sgd.) Pat C. Fragile
412 S. Kanawha Street
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 253-1000
WV Bar No. [illegible]

(PDI-Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2003)

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# ERRATUM

In the ad of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation **Re: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid ITB No. 09-30-2003**, published in this paper October 12, 2003 **Bid Documents** available for issuance upon payment of five thousand pesos, should have been **Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00).**

Our Apologies.

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AN INVITATION TO ENTREPRENEURS WITH A HEART!

THEY WORK HARD,
THEY PRAY HARD,
THEY PLAY HARDER,
THEY HELP OTHERS
AND THEY SHARE
WHATEVER LITTLE SOMETHING
THAT THEY HAVE...

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?
JOIN US!

7th CSE
CENTER FOR SMALL ENTREPRENEURS
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THEME:
SA KRISIS NG EKONOMIYA,
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SEVEN YEARS OF PROVIDING HOLISTIC PROGRAMS & SERVICES TOWARDS A SOCIALLY EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT PRACTICE OF ENTERPRISE BUILDING.

3rd KAPIHANG ENTREPINOY

REGISTRATION FEE:
P300.00/PERSON
(INCLUSION: SNACKS, LUNCH, [illegible] HANDOUTS, SOUVENIR PROGRAM, 2003 SEPT-OCT ISSUE OF ENTREPINOY NEWSLETTER AND A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO WILL ATTEND THE ENTIRE BUSINESS FORUM)

OCTOBER 16 2003
8 AM - 7PM
BENDEN HALL
ASIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE
1518 LEON GUINTO CORNER ESCODA STREETS
MALATE, MANILA

FOR EARLY REGISTRATION OR QUERIES [illegible]
(02) 525-6258 / [illegible]
LOOK FOR ANLYN OR MARILYN
EMAIL ADDRESS: [illegible]
WWW.[illegible].ORG

The Center for Small Entrepreneurs is a nongovernment organization [illegible]

RATIONALE

"OPPORTUNITY IS THE SOURCE OF INNOVATION. NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INNOVATION"

CRUNCH TIME, TRYING TIMES, CHALLENGING TIMES, HARD TIMES... IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS, BUSINESS IDEALS GREATLY SUFFER. DECISION TO CLOSE SHOP SEEMS TO BE A FORCED OPTION THAT MOST BUSINESSMEN HAVE CONSIDERED NOWADAYS THUS, CHALLENGES THE ENTREPRENEURIAL WILL AMONG THEM.

IN UNITY, THERE IS POWER AND STRENGTH. CSE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A PRESSING NEED FOR ENTREPRENEURS TO GET ORGANIZED FOR THE PROMOTION OF THEIR WELFARE AND ENHANCEMENT OF THEIR ENTERPRISES.

THIS GATHERING AIMS TO PROVIDE ENTREPRENEURS OR WOULD-BE ENTREPRENEURS WITH NEW AND INNOVATIVE PROSPECTS TO BECOME COMPETITIVE IN THESE TRYING TIMES.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

7:00 - 8:00 AM REGISTRATION
8:15 - 8:30 AM WELCOME REMARKS by DR. MINA RAMIREZ Chairman, CSE Board of Trustees
8:30 - 9:30 AM THE 21ST CENTURY ENTREPRENEURS by MS. CRISPINA B. ALMONTE, University Extension Specialist, University of the Philippines-Institute for Small Scale Industries
9:30 - 10:30 AM HOW TO MAKE A BUSINESS PROPOSAL & A BUSINESS PLAN by Prof. RODOLFO DIVINO, Philippine Trade & Training Center
10:30 - 11:30 AM PROFITABILITY IN ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PRACTICES by HERNANDO MARILLA, Center for Environmental Studies & Management
11:30 - 12:15 PM OPEN FORUM
Moderator: MARIA CRISTINA M. DIOKNO Editor-in-Chief, EntrePinoy Newsletter
12:15 - 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK
1:00 - 2:50 PM ENTREPRENEURS' TESTIMONIALS
2:50 - 3:00 PM INTRODUCTION to the GUEST SPEAKER by JOSE M. DIOKNO Board of Trustees, CSE
3:00 - 5:30 PM ENTREPRENEURSHIP, THE KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY! by SEN. MANUEL VILLAR entrepreneur / public servant
OPEN FORUM
Presentation & Awarding of the 2003 Search for Top EntrePinoys with Sen. Manuel Villar, Dr. Mina Ramirez and members of the CSE Board of Trustees
5:30 - 7:00 PM SOCIALS Games * Raffles * Bonding * Food * Live Band * Dancing * Singing
7:00 PM CLOSING REMARKS by RHODORA G. HIZON, Project Manager, CSE

MAJOR SPONSORS
NESCAFE OFFICIAL COFFEE OF KAPIHANG ENTREPINOY
INQUIRER

# TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

## INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

In order to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission, the **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, announces the opening of its **Integrated Traineeship Program** for **Year 2004**:

- **Cadetship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of Electrical and Electronics & Communication Engineering Courses.
- **Apprenticeship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of at least two (2)years Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Technology, Industrial Technology, Electrician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

**Qualification Requirements:**

1. Not more than twenty five (25) years of age;
2. Must pass the **TransCo psychological examination** for **Apprenticeship Program**; or the **TransCo psychological and technical examinations** for **Cadetship Program**; and
3. No failing grades in major subjects as shown in the Official Transcript of Records

Interested applicants should personally apply on **October 9-24, 2003** from **1:30 PM** to **4:30 PM** at the following **TransCo Offices**:

**Residents of Metro Manila:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **Human Resource Training Division** Human Resources Department G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City | (02) 922-5873<br>922-8435<br>local 5525/<br>5526 |

**Residents of South Luzon:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office** San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna | (02) 922-8435<br>local 6425<br>(049) 411-2184 |

**Residents of South Luzon:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **District 1 – Batangas/Cavite** Mahabang Parang, Batangas City | (043) 300-3591<br>(043) 300-3592 |
| **District 2 – Laguna/Quezon** Barangay Real, Calamba City | (049) 545-1915<br>(049) 834-01-58 |
| **District 3 – Bicol Area** Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay | (052) 824-11-02<br>(052) 824-7974 |

**Residents of North Luzon:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office** Pennsylvania Ave. Poro Point San Fernando City, La Union | (072) 888-0837<br>(072) 888-0839 |
| **District 1 – Ilocos Area** Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union | (072) 242-1178<br>(072) 242-1173 |
| **District 2 – Mt. Province Area** Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet | (074) 444-7425<br>(074) 444-7423 |
| **District 3 – North Central Plain Area** Barangay Sto. Domingo, San Manuel, Pangasinan | (075) 565-3267<br>(075) 656-3268 |
| **District 4 – Cagayan Valley Area** Brgy. Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela | (078) 682-8406<br>(078) 682-8408 |
| **District 5 – West Central Plain Area** Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan | (045) 971-6698<br>(045) 971-6780 |
| **District 6 – South Central Plain Area** Barangay San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga | (045) 966-0436 |
| **District 7 – Northern Tagalog Area** San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan | (044) 691-3330 |

**Residents of Visayas:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office** Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City | (032) 346-3427<br>(032) 346-9449 |

**Residents of Visayas:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **District 1 – Western Visayas Area** Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Ilo-ilo City | (033) 336-1489<br>(033) 336-8026 |
| **District 2 – Central Visayas Area** Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City | (032) 346-9338 |
| **District 3 – Eastern Visayas Area** Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City | (053) 561-0140 |
| **District 4 – Negros Area** Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City | (034) 435-4418<br>(034) 708-6988 |

**Residents of Mindanao:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office** Ma. Cristina, Iligan City | (063) 223-6613 |
| **District 1 – Northwestern Mindanao Area** Rizal Avenue, Santiago District, Pagadian City | (062) 214-1856<br>(062) 214-1671 |
| **District 2 – Lanao Area** Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City | (063) 221-6136<br>(063) 221-6133<br>(063) 221-6134 |
| **District 3 – Northcentral Mindanao Area** Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City | (088) 227-23716<br>(088) 227-23744<br>(088) 858-6047 |
| **District 4 – Northeastern Mindanao Area** J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City | (085) 815-2178<br>(085) 342-8293<br>(085) 225-2147 |
| **District 5 – Southeastern Mindanao Area** 3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowville & Sampaguita Mintal, Davao City | (082) 293-0208<br>(082) 293-0599<br>(082) 293-0205 |
| **District 6 – Southwestern Mindanao Area** Calumpang, General Santos City | (083) 553-2819<br>(083) 552-3269 |

For **Cadetship Program**, only those who pass the psychological examination will be qualified to take the **technical examination** scheduled on **November 22, 2003 for Luzon** and **November 29, 2003 for Visayas/ Mindanao.**

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
**Third Elementary Education Project**
Division of Zamboanga del Sur
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
**Bids and Awards Committee**

## Invitation for Re-Bidding

October 15, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

| PACKAGE NO. | PROJECT LOCATION | PCAB Category | Date of Opening of Bids |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2DS-NCB-19/26-004 | A. MIDSALIP, Zamboanga del Sur<br>1. Const. Of 1 unit – 1 CL SB in Duelic ES<br>2. Rehab. Of 1 unit – 4 CL SB in Midsalip CES<br>3. Rehab. Of 1 unit – 2 CL SB in Bakahan ES<br>4. Rehab Of 1 unit – 3 CL SB in Bibilop ES<br>B. SOMINOT, Zamboanga del Sur<br>1. Const. Of 1 unit – 2 CL SB in Datagan ES<br>2. Rehab Of 2 units – 3CL & 2CL SB in Sominot CES<br>3. Rehab. Of 1 unit – 2 CL SB in Sominot ES<br>4. Rehab. Of 1 unit – 2 CL SB in Sto. Niño ES | Medium Sub-Category "A"-ARC | Nov. 18, 2003<br>10:00 AM |

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a non-refundable fee of PhP3,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on October 27, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

**VISMINDA G. SERRATO**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Oct. 15, 2003)

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Notice is hereby given to the public that Membership Certificate No. 1890 for 100 units of the Manila Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

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Notice is hereby given to the public that Regular Membership Certificate No. 1289 of the Canlubang Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

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# BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## INVITATION FOR THE SELECTION OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE PREPARATION OF PRIVATIZATION PLAN OF BCDA SHARES IN FBDC

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested banks/ financial institutions to participate in the selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of the privatization plan of BCDA shares in Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC).

FBDC, the joint venture corporation between BCDA and Bonifacio Land Corporation (BLC) was organized for the purpose of developing Phase I of the 214 hectares Fort Bonifacio area. BCDA is 45% shareholder of FBDC while the equity contribution of BLC is 55%.

BCDA is seriously considering **disposing** its shares in FBDC in line with its disposition mandate and the current privatization trusts of the national government. BCDA is seeking proposals for a Financial Advisor who would prepare the privatization plan, valuation/ market studies, determination of the number of shares to be disposed and the optimal timing/schedule of disposition considering the present market conditions.

Interested banks/financial institutions may submit their Letter of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) in the Selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of privatization plan of BCDA shares in FBDC.

The TOR for the above services will be ready for distribution to interested parties on October 12-21, 2003 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) for each TOR, payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

BCDA will only accept prospective bidders with the following minimum qualifications:

- Must have at least three (3) years experience in financial advisory services; and
- Must have undertaken financial advisory services of projects totaling to P500 million and above for the last five years.

Interested parties are invited to attend the bid conference set at 2:00 p.m. on 22 October 2003 **instead of the 10:00 a.m. as previously stated in our ads last 12 October 2003.** The objective of the bid conference is to discuss the proposed disposition of FBDC shares, TOR and other possible questions that may be raised by the interested bidder. The venue of the meeting will be at the BCDA Corporate Center, VAB, Pasay City.

Interested banks/financial institutions can direct their inquiries to Mr. Victor V. Zablan and/or Ms. Hedda Y. Rulona at telephone numbers 510-0410 and 551-1836 or at vvzablan@bcda.gov.ph or hyrulona@bcda.gov.ph.

**(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO**
President & CEO

(PDI – October 15 & 20, 2003)

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for possible assignment in Baguio, Lucena, and Metro Manila

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- With work experience
- Of good moral character

**Pls. Report to:**

For Metro Manila applicants:
658 C. Palanca Sr. St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. 735-71-73 / 734-95-20

For Baguio applicants: Site of SM Baguio, look for Mr. Michael Cac of Engineering Dept.

For Lucena applicants: SM Lucena (Dept. Store), look for Mr. Adrian Villafuerte of Engineering Dept.

---

**MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.**
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

## INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting qualified suppliers to participate in the forthcoming E-Bidding for the One (1) Year supply and staggered delivery of total 28,450 metric tons Liquid Aluminum Sulfate, as follows:

1. **17,500 MT - for La Mesa Treatment Plant No. 1**
2. **10,950 MT - for La Mesa Treatment Plant No. 2**

Bid Documents can be secured at the MWSS-Purchasing Department Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City at a non-refundable fee of P2,000 per set. The bid documents will be issued to interested bidders from **October 20, 2003** up to **October 24, 2003**.

The required Pre-Qualification Documents shall be submitted on **October 30, 2003**, Thursday, up to 5:00 p.m.

Bid Security shall be submitted on **November 11, 2003**, Tuesday, up to 5:00 p.m.

E-BIDDING is scheduled on **November 14, 2003**, Friday, 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 16, 2003)

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# GIA

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16th Floor, Chatham House Valero cnr V. A. Rufino Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 or fax your resumé to
845 3139.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION**
Region I Field Office

## INVITATION TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of cash sealed bids on the following properties:

| NAME/LOCATION OF PROPERTY | | | REMARKS | HOUSE AREA, sm | LOT AREA, sm | MINIMUM BID PRICE, Pesos |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase I Inventory | | | | | | |
| Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag, Pangasinan | | | | | | |
| | BLK NO. | LOT NO. | | | | |
| | 1 | 6 | House & Lot/Titled | 24.00 | 163.00 | 180,000.00 |
| | 1 | 11 | House & Lot/Titled | 24.00 | 142.00 | 180,000.00 |
| | 1 | 12 | House & Lot/Titled | 24.00 | 154.00 | 180,000.00 |
| | 5 | 4 | House & Lot/Titled | 24.00 | 162.00 | 180,000.00 |
| 2. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase II (70 lots) | | | Lots only/Titled | | 16,681.00 | 4,737,981.51 |
| Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag, Pangasinan | | | | | | |
| 3. Block 6, Lot 31, Villa Pozorrubio Subdivision | | | House & Lot/Titled | 25.00 | 80.00 | 225,000.00 |
| Bgy. Alipangpang, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan | | | | | | |
| 4. 160 Castro-Sarmenta Subdivision, Bolosan | | | House & Lot/Titled | 102.00 | 185.00 | 650,000.00 |
| District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan | | | | | | |

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the actual condition of the property/ies subject of public bidding. All property/ies are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained at the Region I Field Office, 2/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City, or call (074) 443-60-33, (074) 443-95-85, or (074) 446-48-81.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 pm, Monday, 03 November 2003 at the 2/F, Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–October 15, 16 & 17, 2003)

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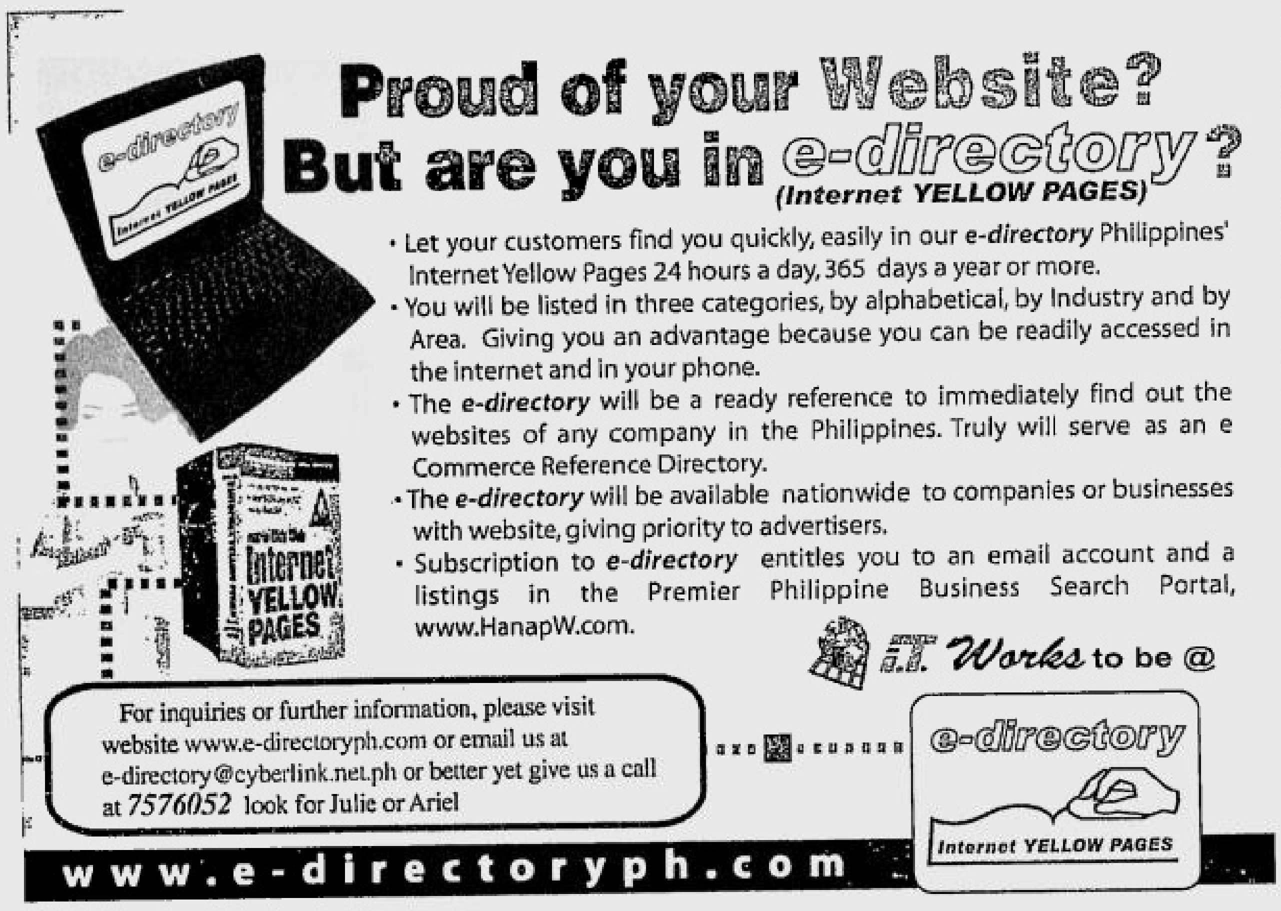

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Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Agriculture**
**Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources**
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City,
Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-5057 * 372-5042
Fax Nos 372-5048 * 372-5061

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department of Agriculture**, invites boat builders and/or contractors to bid for the construction of forty nine (49) units Coastal Fisheries Patrol Boats for the **Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP)**, a project managed by the **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)** and funded by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**. The Coastal Fisheries Patrol boats shall have the following specifications:

1. Principal Dimensions: Length overall - Not less 29.5 feet, hard chine, plaining mono-hull, with walk around pilot house capable of running 20 knots.
2. With removable canvas awning for rear open deck.
3. Molded fiberglass reinforced with integrated stringers.
4. Engine: Inboard Exhaust Driven Turbocharged Marine Diesel Engine with not less than 130 horsepower at 3800 rpm.
5. With complete SOLAS and Navigational Equipment.
6. Molded fiberglass pilot house and dry storage compartment.
7. Capable of carrying a maximum of 5 crewmembers.
8. Sufficient stability to withstand rough sea conditions within the municipal waters along major bays and gulfs of the Philippines.

This bidding will also include the supply of 53 units each of Geographical Positioning System and Binoculars for previously deployed patrol boats by the FRMP.

The approved budget for this procurement is PhP74,531,550.00.

Interested bidders can secure the checklist of eligibility documents and Instruction to Bidders from **October 16 to 24, 2003** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fisheries Resource Management Project - Project Management Office (FRMP-PMO), 2nd Floor Estuar Building, 880 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP1,000.00 per set.

A complete set of Eligibility Documents shall be submitted to the above mentioned address on or before 3:00 p.m., **7 November 2003**. The eligibility documents shall be addressed to The Chairman, BFAR-FRMP Bids and Awards Committee.

Only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. A Single Stage Bidding with Variation shall be adapted which will required eligible bidders to submit their technical and financial proposals separately in two (2) sealed envelopes. The technical proposals shall be opened and evaluated to determine their compliance with the Instruction to Bidders.

After the technical evaluation, only the financial proposals of those bidders who are found substantially compliant with the technical specifications shall be opened and evaluated further. The price proposals of those who have been found substantially non compliant with the technical requirements shall be returned unopened.

After a list of technically-compliant bidders is completed, the PBAC shall immediately set the date for the opening of the financial proposals which shall not be earlier than seven (7) days after the date set for the opening of the technical proposals. Concerned bidders shall be informed by the PBAC of the exact place, date and time of the opening of the financial proposals either by phone, fax, registered mail or email.

During the evaluation, special attention will be given to the Bidder's performance record, technical and financial capability and technical proposal. Evaluation of price proposals will be based within the prescribed limits in government public bidding

A Pre-Bid Conference with the prospective bidders will be held on **29 October 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Circle, Quezon City.

Additional information may be furnished upon request. Address all communications to the Chairman BFAR-FRMP Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd floor, Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

The BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein, and to accept the bid considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **REUBEN A. GANADEN**
Officer-in-Charge
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

(PDI - Oct 15, 2003)

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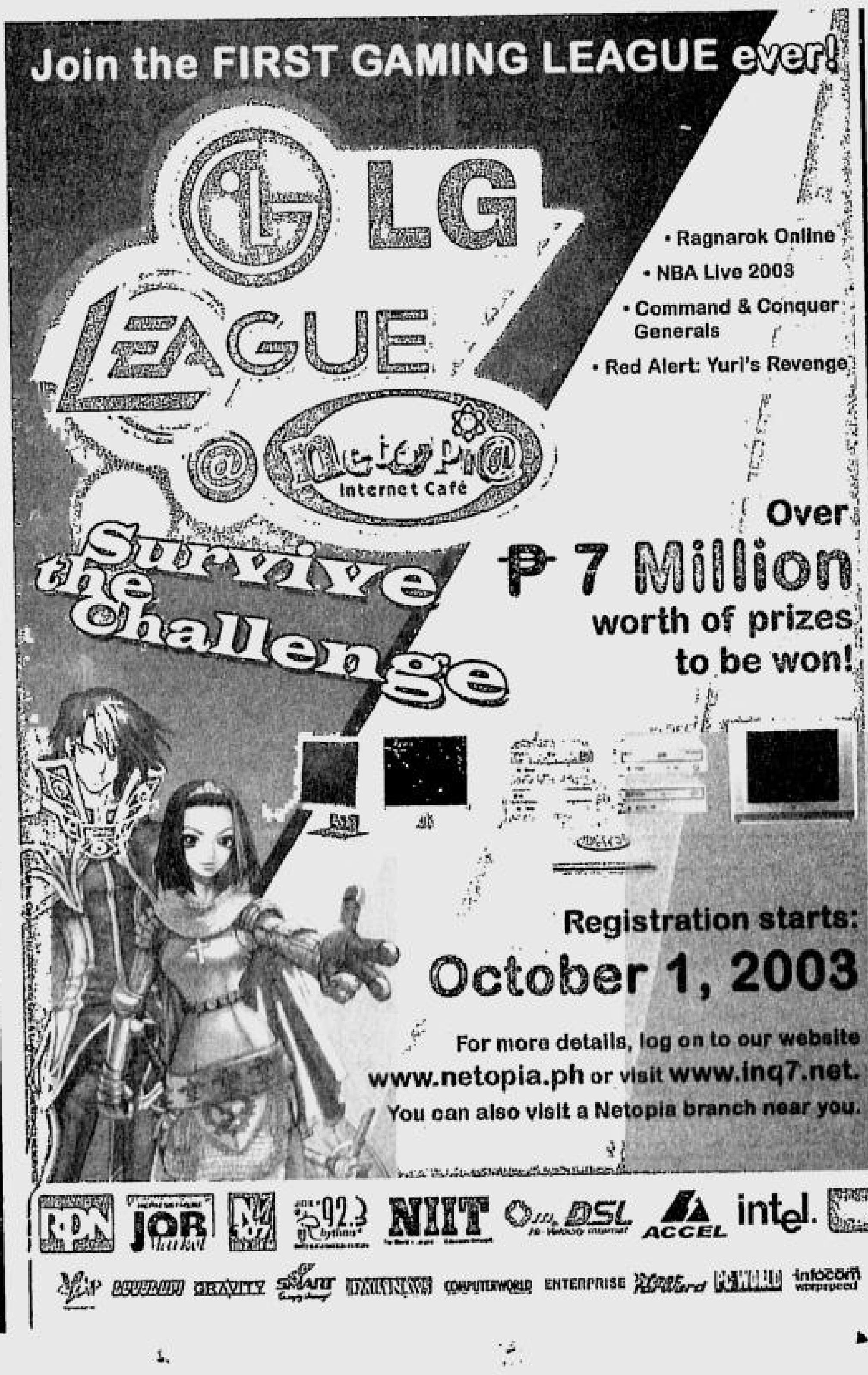

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## *NHA celebrates 65 years of social housing*

THE National Housing Authority (NHA) will celebrate today, October 15, its 28th anniversary as it also commemorates the founding of the first government housing agency that launched the social housing program 65 years ago.

The NHA was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 757 on July 30, 1975, becoming fully operational on October 15, 1975.

NHA General Manager Edgardo Pamintuan said today's observance is part of the weeklong celebration which kicked off last October 13, 2003.

As part of the observance, NHA shall open today a photo exhibit dubbed as "Mga Tahanan ng Kasaysayan at Panguluhan" at the NHA main office lobby. This showcases different historical houses and the homes of past Philippine presidents. An on-the-spot painting contest for its employees and a skills training on trendy balloon making shall also be held.

Other activities of the celebration include skills training session on wellness and productivity, film showing on gender awareness, key shelter agencies exhibition games (aerobics), presentation of the NHA Mascot "Osing", launching of "Impok Pabahay", and conferment of loyalty awards to deserving NHA employees.

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the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

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PHAP

*The Officers, Trustees, and Members of the*
*Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines*
*mourn the death of Past President and Trustee*

## EPITACIO DIMEN TITONG, JR.

*Who joined his Creator on Saturday, October 11, 2003 at the age of 61.*

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 16, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City after a funeral Mass at Sanctuario de San Antonio.

---

***For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.***

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# TISHA

*INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED*
(14 August 1957 – 15 October 1994)

HOLY MASSES FOR **TISHA** WILL BE OFFERED TODAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

| | |
|---|---|
| IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH<br>Pasig City | 5:00 A.M. |
| SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH<br>Kamuning, Q.C. | 5:15 A.M. |
| IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH<br>Lantana St., Q.C. | 5:30 A.M. |
| ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION<br>M. Hemady cor. 11th St., New Manila, Q.C. | 6:00 A.M. |
| ST. JUDE SHRINE<br>JP Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila | 6:30 A.M. |
| NAT'L. SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL & THE ARCHANGELS<br>Solano St., San Miguel, Manila | 7:00 A.M. |
| STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH<br>Tondo, Manila | 7:00 A.M. |
| SANTISSIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH<br>UST, España, Manila | 7:30 A.M. |
| THE MEDICAL CITY HOSPITAL CHAPEL<br>Mandaluyong City | 12:00 NN |
| SAN MARTIN DE PORRES CHAPEL<br>P. Galvan – L. Guinto St., Malate, Manila | 12:00 NN |
| MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH<br>Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila | 6:00 P.M. |
| OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE<br>New Manila, Q.C. | 6:00 P.M. |
| SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH<br>Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila | 6:00 P.M. |
| SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE<br>Greenhills, Mandaluyong City | 6:00 A.M., 7:00 A.M., 6:15 P.M. |

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## COL. HONORATO P. CORPUS, AFP (Ret.)

of Aliaga, N.E. and San Juan, M.M.
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 13, 2003 at the age of 90

His bereaved wife Panching; children and in-laws; Baby & Rene Garcia, Boy & Cecille Umali, Rosy (†) & Tony Kairuz, Hector & Joy Tiongson, Evelyn & Leo Briones, Edna & Eric Soriano, Hernan & Maricel; grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuario del Santo Cristo Mortuary Chapel A. Bonifacio, San Juan, M.M.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 18, 2003 at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sanctuario del Santo Cristo Church.

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**WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:** ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

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The Management and Staff of

SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION,
ESSEX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
and SCHERING-PLOUGH ANIMAL HEALTH

wish to express their deep sorrow on the demise on October 11, 2003 of past Schering-Plough Corporation President and General Manager

## EPITACIO "EPI" D. TITONG, JR.

We request you to join us in our prayers for our beloved **EDT.**

---

## SERGIO BAYAN SALAS

*July 17, 1943 - October 7, 2003*

**De La Salle College '65 . Harvard Business School '70**

Laddie woke up to the morning of his new life on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, joining his beloved father **Judge Emilio Villanueva Salas**, youngest son **Roberto Miguel**, brother **Teegee**, and dear aunt **Cristina delos Reyes Ponce**. His remains were cremated on the same day.

He is survived by his wife **Victoria V. Gamboa**, his sons **Sergio Paolo (Vip)**, **Juan Quintin (Jay)**, and **Francisco Victor (Judd)**; his mother **Lydia B. Bayan**; mother-in-law **Carmen (Nene) Vergel de Dios Gamboa**; brother **Emilio (Pinko)** and wife **Purita Calasanz**; nephew **Emil Anton**; and aunts **Amparo Bayan Zamora** and **Dr. Flora B. Bayan**.

Laddie loved literature, dancing, good food and wine, gadgets, and ideas. He spent his life in managerial, consulting, and teaching assignments, and worked on his crafts and inventions to the end of his days. He shared with us a sense of high values, poetry, and indomitable hope.

We request our relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

---

In Loving Remembrance
On the **2nd Death Anniversary**
of our beloved

## NORMA TOBIAS YOUNG

*She passed away on October 15, 2001 in Quezon City at the age of 76.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Transfiguration of Christ, 19th Avenue, Murphy | Oct. 15, 2003 | 7:00 PM |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 13th Ave., Murphy | Oct. 15, 2003 | 7:00 AM |
| Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows | Oct. 15, 2003 | 7:00 AM |
| Saint Claire Monastery, Aurora Boulevard | Oct. 15, 2003 | 6:00 AM |

# CLASSIFIEDS

BCDA

### BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
### INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting, interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of the following BCDA properties:

1. Approximately 66,920-square meter SRDP Proper located at the former Self-Reliance and Development Program (SRDP) Complex, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila;
2. Approximately four (4) hectares North Bonifacio Lots located in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, near the Manila Japanese School, British School and International School Manila, and
3. Approximately five (5) hectares of Camp Bago Bantay located at Barangay Sto. Cristo, Bago Bantay, Quezon City between SM City Annex and Mindanao Avenue.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents interested to participate in the privatization/development. Interested proponents can address their letters to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE 2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

The TOR for the abovementioned property shall be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 15 October 2003 at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Php10,000.00, for each TOR payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A pre-qualification conference among interested proponents is set at 2:00 pm on 29 October 2003. The objective of the pre-qualification conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by the proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Aileen Zosa and/or Bamble Andal at telephone numbers 551-3006 to 11 local 124 or 110.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI – October 10, 15 & 22, 2003)

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PNOC – Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Telephone 893-1320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401481

PNOC
The Energy Company

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC – Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC Medium Sub-Category A in General Building / Building and Industrial Plant – "Buildings" to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

**Proposed Staffhouse for the Construction of the Northern Negros Geothermal Project Fluid Collection and Reinjection System under Project/Contract No. EDC 03-156**

The work calls for the supply of materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to construct a staffhouse at PNOC-EDC's project site at Barangay Mailum, Bago City, Negros Occidental.

The approved budget is P6,810,940.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 90 calendar days.

The Application Forms for Eligibility may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting October 8, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00).

Application for Eligibility must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of October 22, 2003.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting November 10, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)

The pre-bid conference and site inspection will be scheduled on a later date and shall be announced to the eligible bidders

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of December 11, 2003 and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–Oct. 15, 2003)

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**PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
PNOC
PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 / 1320

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as Medium A – Building and Industrial Plant to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project

**SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT STAGE 3 (20 SITIOS)**
**EDC03-178**

The Approved Budget is P5,172,083.61 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 120 calendar days

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o R.A. Sison) starting October 8, 2003 upon payment of a non refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00)

Application for Eligibility must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of October 22, 2003.

Bid documents will be available for issuance to eligible bidders starting November 7, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00)

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on November 14, 2003, 3:30 p.m. at the CAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Building V

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of December 9, 2003 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–Oct. 15, 2003)

# SM CINEMA

**SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999**

## NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9235452

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MATCHSTICKMEN
7 VISIBLE SECRET 2
8 THE SUSPECT

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 THE MEDALLION
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 TAKE MY BODY
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 KISKISAN
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 THE TREK
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7120015

1 UNDERWORLD
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 INNER SENSES
6 BUGBOG SARADO

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294875

1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 THE SUSPECT
3 UNDERWORLD
4 FREAKY FRIDAY

### SM BICUTAN
7769065

1 UNDERWORLD
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING

### SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

### SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE SUSPECT
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 MATCHSTICKMEN
10 INNER SENSES

### SM SOUTHMALL
8006069

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 UNDERWORLD
3 MATCHSTICKMEN
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 VISIBLE SECRET 2
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 BUGBOG SARADO
8 THE SUSPECT
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
2 VISIBLE SECRET 2
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 THE SUSPECT
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 UNDERWORLD
8 FREAKY FRIDAY
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 INNER SENSES
11 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 NOWHERE IN AFRICA
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE TREK
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 THE MEDALLION

### SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 THE MEDALLION

### SM MEGAMALL
6331905 • 6339401

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6386800
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 BUGBOG SARADO
10 MATCHSTICKMEN
11 VISIBLE SECRET 2
12 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE SUSPECT
2 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 KATAS
2 RESERVED
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MEDALLION
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 RESERVED
8 NEW BLOOD

### SM CITY MANILA
5230349

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 INNER SENSES
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 THE SUSPECT
6 UNDERWORLD
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 MATCHSTICKMEN
9 VISIBLE SECRET 2
10 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
11 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12 BUGBOG SARADO

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 THE MEDALLION

### SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464585

OPENS Nov. 21

## THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 **FREAKY FRIDAY**
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2 **MATCHSTICKMEN**
11:00 FS/11:20 FS/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

*For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS*

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2 UNDERWORLD
3 THE SUSPECT
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 MATCHSTICK MEN
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10 FREAKY FRIDAY

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
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### Ermita
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536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 THE SUSPECT
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5 BUGBOG SARADO
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

### Metro East
Marcos hway
682-6193/99
682-8280

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 MATCHSTICK MEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 BUGBOG SARADO

### Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 THE SUSPECT
6 VISIBLE SECRET
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 BUGBOG SARADO

| Star Mills<br>(045)875-1927 (045)961-5270 | | Imus<br>(046)471-8188 / 875-5856 |
|---|---|---|
| UNDERWORLD/SUCKERS | 1 | UNDERWORLD |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA/PILYA | 2 | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING |
| TREK/INNER SENSES | 3 | BUGBOG SARADO |
| BUGBOG SARADO | 4 | HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES |
| FREAKY FRIDAY | 5 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |
| AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | 6 | FREAKY FRIDAY |

| Bacolod<br>(034)441-0458/59 | | Iloilo<br>(033)336-8070 to 78 |
|---|---|---|
| THE MEDALLION | 1 | How To Deal |
| HOW TO DEAL | 2 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING | 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO | 4 | THE MEDALLION |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 5 | NEW BLOOD |
| KISKISAN | 6 | KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA |

| Sta. Rosa<br>(049)837-0807 | | Lipa, Batangas |
|---|---|---|
| AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING | 1 | THE MEDALLION |
| TREK | 2 | ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO |
| KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA | 3 | AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING |
| FREAKY FRIDAY | 4 | KATAS |
| BUGBOG SARADO | 5 | "RUNDOWN" OPENS ON OCT 22 |

### Malabon
Concepcion
288-0985/2575

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 SUCKERS

## SOON TO OPEN

DASMARINAS, CAVITE

CAINTA JUNCTION

FREAKY FRIDAY

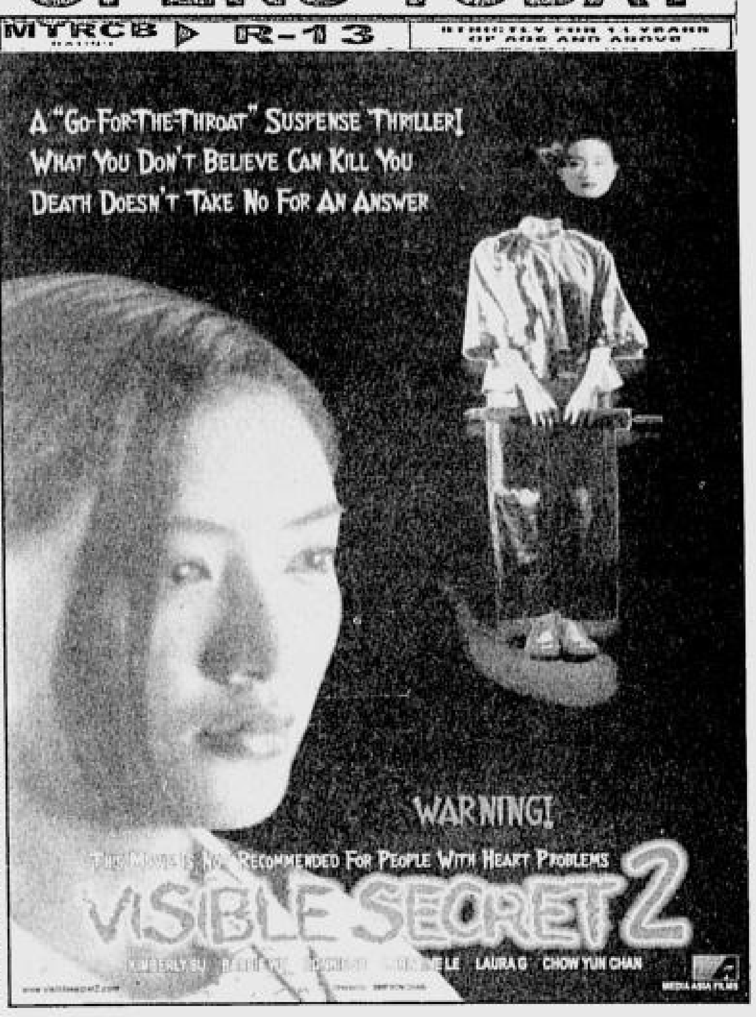
NOW SHOWING

**MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.**

---

# OPENS TODAY

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE


A "Go-For-The-Throat" Suspense Thriller!
What You Don't Believe Can Kill You
Death Doesn't Take No For An Answer
WARNING!
This Movie Is Not Recommended For People With Heart Problems
VISIBLE SECRET 2
LAURA G
CHOW YUN CHAN
MEDIA ASIA FILMS

---

# OPENS TODAY

MAGIC 89.9

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**BASED ON A SHOCKING TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY PULITZER-PRIZE WINNER MIKE McALARY**

"A SOLID THRILLER"
IGSBR.net
DE NIRO
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McDORMAND
FRANCO
THE SUSPECT

---

# POWER PLANT CINEMA

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UNDERWORLD<br>R18<br>12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50 | FREAKY FRIDAY<br>GP<br>12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 | AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING<br>R18<br>12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10 |
| THE SUSPECT<br>R13<br>11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 | HOW TO DEAL<br>PG13<br>12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 | MATCHSTICKMEN<br>PG13<br>12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20 |

MATINEE P80.00 • FREE SEATING • SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM • MON TO FRI

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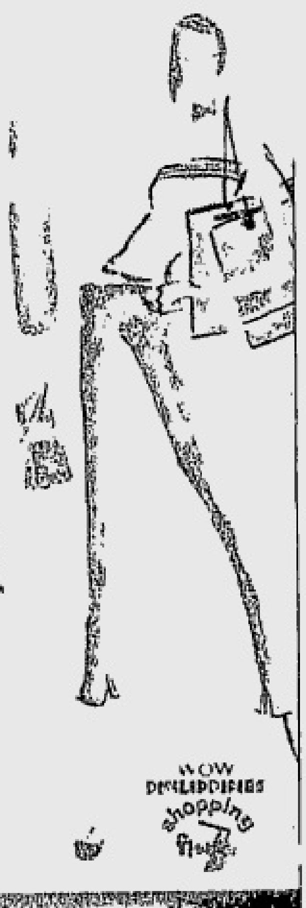

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POWER PLANT MALL

# A different kind of architect

By Candy G. Villanueva

THOSE who have taken trips on a luxurious ship or ferry have experienced the joy of standing on a ship's deck, enjoying the strong sea breeze, and holding on to the railings while the boat slices through the ocean surface. We would enjoy the ride without really thinking about the massive water vehicle making our experience possible. We do not realize that these boats or ships are made by skilled craftsmen called naval architects.

Edward B. de Guzman is one of these naval architects in the maritime industry. De Guzman and a few hundred naval architects are the designers and builders of ships and all sorts of sea vessels. Although not a widely known profession, naval architects are the creators of patrol boats, ferries, yachts, tugboats, giant oil tankers, battleships and aircraft carriers.

## Art, science combined

Since naval architects design and build the ships, they are considered as both artists and scientists. Naval architects hold dual degrees as naval architects and marine engineers because they also engineer the building process. The dual degree is attained through a five-year course in schools like the Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Institute (NAMEI) in Mandaluyong City. Like other engineers, naval architects are considered certified only after passing the board exams.

"You have to be very analytical and creative," says De Guzman of his job. "In all angles of design, you will use math and science. You are like an artist except that your creations and ideas have scientific basis." According to De Guzman, design conception is a tricky task because "you have to immediately consider how to make the ship run at a certain speed under given loading conditions. On top of that, you have to be simple with the design because ship maintenance is very costly."

## Innovation

The shipbuilding industry is very competitive. "Naval architects should be innovative," says de Guzman. "We try to be consistently updated with current trends in design and the latest machinery innovation."

De Guzman presently works for Southern Gulf Marine Industries based in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The company specializes in aluminum vessels and is known for its innovations. Currently, De Guzman is working on a one of a kind 48-meter high speed Trimaran Ferry. A Trimaran, unlike usual ships with one hull, has triple hulls. This ferry can travel twice as fast as the Catamaran ferries servicing the Bataan-Manila route.

**ALL ABOUT WORK**

A ship starts with a design proposal based on a client's requirement. De Guzman determines the power and type of engine based on the desired speed. In addition, it is the naval architect's job to calculate the propeller size, shaft diameter and strength of hull structure and deckhouse. These calculations are critical because they could help avoid catastrophes of "titanic" proportions.

## Not routine work

"There's no typical day for me as a designer," De Guzman revealed. "Work is not routine." Sometimes, when he's not out talking to clients, De Guzman can be found bent over his computer working with AUTOCAD (a software designing tool). Other times, he is making calculation reports or is out on the great blue waters conducting trials.

De Guzman takes on his job with a passion. "With this job, everything is always new. The experiments and sea trials are very challenging." The naval architect's job after all spells the difference between a safe cruise and a harrowing trip on unpredictable seas.

"I design different kinds of ships every day," De Guzman says. "Whenever I design, I think of myself as a creator of a beautiful woman." He quotes his professor saying, "Ships are just like women. You dress and put accessories on women. As for ships, you paint them. Women have great curves and so do ships. Ships have well-defined and smooth flowing lines." De Guzman adds, "Like a beautiful woman, the ship should be balanced and proportioned in shape to make it look appealing." But form never overpowers function. "The design should never compromise the purpose and functions of the ship. It should be easy to maintain and user friendly."

EDWARD De Guzman

## Philippine shipbuilding

According to De Guzman, most of the vessels in the Philippines are more than 20 years old. "Here in the UAE, 10-year-old vessels are good as scrap metal. But the Philippines imports secondhand vessels," De Guzman sadly shares. This is where the expertise of local naval architects comes in. Secondhand vessels from Taiwan and Japan are transformed by our local naval architects to make them useful. "Naval architects can make even the most dilapidated vessel work."

Over all, there are only around 500 certified naval architects in the country. The profession's few members is due to the fact that naval architects have limited job opportunities in the country. There are only a handful of shipyards found in Batangas, Cebu, Subic and Navotas. Fewer still are the luxury yacht builders in the country. "The only luxury yacht builder I know in the Philippines is Ocean Pacifico Services in Subic," says De Guzman. One luxury yacht would cost a hefty sum of $12 million and most of the market would come from Europe.

## Country of choice

Currently, many countries hire shipbuilders from China because of the country's cheap labor and efficient production. De Guzman hopes that someday, the Philippines would be the country of choice for shipbuilding. "In the future, when Filipino naval architects working abroad would go back, they could contribute in upgrading Philippine shipbuilding because of the excellent exposure they had abroad." He declares, "We have the capability to produce quality vessels."

# Collaborative selling increases competitive advantage

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

THE WORLD of business has changed and continues to change dramatically and rapidly. Markets have grown from local to national to global. Technology no longer offers a competitive advantage, and customers have become much more savvy. All of these changes and more have created an environment in which salespeople must adopt new attitudes, learn new skills, and gain a new understanding of how to approach their markets and work with customers.

No doubt, you have seen this quantum shift and its consequences in your industry: your competitors have increased in number and become more aggressive. Your products or services are more difficult to sell than in the past. It has become a challenge just to differentiate your company from your competitors, and price issues are a constant problem.

The upshot of these market influences is that the differentiated products of yesterday are the commodities of today. Instead of making differentiation easier, technology has made differentiation more difficult. Differentiation is, however, the only way to be successful in today's market.

Differentiation must come from quality, price, or service; and few companies can survive competing on price. This is a monumental challenge that every company faces. It is a challenge met by collaborative selling, a system in which salespeople can create differentiation and its accompanying competitive advantage every time they go after business.

## Fallacies

The traditional approach to selling was largely developed after World War II. When the war ended, the demand for consumer goods shot up to an all-time high. Consumers were not very sophisticated, so selling techniques revolved around this typical scenario, which still exists today: Traditional salespeople paid little attention to targeting their markets or planning their sales calls. They approached the market as a "numbers game," delivered a canned pitch to as many prospects as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Good salespeople began by breaking the ice with a little small talk (and equated small talk with relationship building). Then, they delivered razzle-dazzle pitches to wide-eyed, hopefully receptive prospects. There was little, if any, information gathering. Instead, the sales process focused on a persuasive pitch, manipulative closing techniques, and the salesperson's skills in handling customer objections. Superstar salespeople were those who had mastered the art of arm-twisting.

The traditional sales pitch was, by necessity, generic. All of the product's features and benefits had to be covered because salespeople had no way of knowing which features and benefits were relevant. It was a true shotgun approach in which salespeople tried to sell their products to every prospect, regardless of need. There was no follow-up after the sale. Traditional salespeople moved from one transaction to the next without looking back. Sales were perceived as one-shot deals.

## Manipulative

Traditional selling has another Achilles' heel. It creates tension and could be construed as adversarial. Traditional salespeople often perceive their prospects as people with whom they must go to battle to win business. This power struggle mind set is supported by sales trainers who teach manipulative sales technique and by books with combative titles such as "Hard Ball Selling," "Guerrilla Marketing," and "The Sale Begins When The Customer Says No."

It does not take a genius to realize that the focus in traditional selling is misplaced and myopic. The commando approach to selling is obsolete. It does not foster referrals, references, repeat business, word-of-mouth advertising, customer satisfaction, or good will.

Collaborative selling begins with a different mindset: a commitment to the long-term. Today's customers buy differently, so today's salespeople must sell differently. Customers know there is no urgency to buy because good deals, good salespeople, and good companies come along every day. Price is less of an issue because buyers are not just interested in great deals, they want great relationships. Today's customers are looking for measurable quality in the products and services they buy.

The transition to collaborative selling and the emphasis on long-term relationships is evident in the words and phrases that are used to describe modern buyer-seller relationships: strategic alliances, sustaining resources, single sources, integrity, values, and ethics.

Today's customers are looking for long-term relationships with suppliers who will be reliable resources over the long haul.

In fact, many companies are awarding lifetime contracts to their supplier-partners. Collaborating companies are networking their computer systems to expedite order-entry, just-in-time inventory control and electronic payment. Strategic alliance, partnering, collaboration—call it what you want—is taking place throughout the world on a macro level (industry to industry) and on a micro (salesperson to customer) level.

*(Next week: Steps in the Collaborative Selling Process. Dr. Alessandra is the author of "The Platinum Rule" based in the US. Visit his web site at* www.alessandra.com.*)*

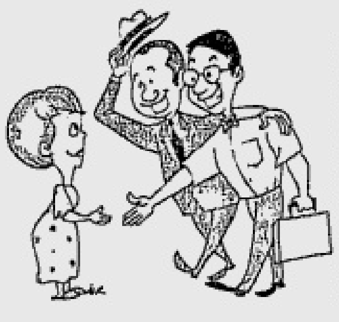
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

## Govt employee ...

From page B16

It will help if you study what MNCs usually look for based on their job openings and placements in the Classified Ads. I was told by my friend who is in the placement business that there are job opportunities in audit.

You can also explore other career options aside from being a CPA or an ISO auditor. You can aspire to be a finance officer, IT auditor or financial comptroller.

I would imagine, too, that (as you said) MNCs look for experience in previous MNCs. In addition, they may also require the MNC perspective. Since you are making the shift from government service to MNC work, this requires significant adjustment on your part.

### Required training

With your CPA background, yes, you can pursue being an ISO auditor. Since I have limited knowledge on this matter, you can contact Neville Clarke at Unit 2408 Orient Square, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center at telephone number 636-6430. They may be able to provide you with more information about training on ISO certification and audit. Or you can visit their web site at www.nevilleclarke.com. There are also many other training programs on audit, finance and comptrollership offered by various training and consultancy companies.

Just make sure that the training program is accompanied by the necessary certification. Certifications are now becoming a major differentiator and make our professionals globally competitive.

### On-the-job exposure

Training, though, may not be limited to seminars as you may want a gradual introduction or exposure to MNCs by getting involved in some projects with MNCs like internships, on-the-job training and contractual arrangements, for a start.

Through training, you also get the much needed networking and linkages with MNCs. Being in government (depending on your agency's involvement), sometimes, you may get to meet MNC partners, funding agencies or collaborators who may provide you access to both people and projects in MNCs you may want to start getting involved in.

Networking is key to getting access to people, projects and opportunities. You have to go out, inquire, meet people and be more proactive if you really want to pursue your plan of being employed in an MNC. People may refer you to their business associates, partners and lead you to the opportunities that you are looking for.

### Seven Habits

Let me also share with you and encourage you to practice the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey, which can help you in achieving your goal.

"Be proactive" is the endowment of self-knowledge or self-awareness—an ability to choose your response. "Begin with the end in mind" is the endowment of imagination and conscience. "Put first things first" is the endowment of willpower. "Think win/win" is the endowment of an abundance mentality. "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." "Synergize" is the endowment of creativity. "Sharpen the saw" is the unique endowment of continuous improvement of self-renewal.

### God's commitment

Dear CPA, God is committed to your success. As I can see it, you have already started being proactive, you are trying to aspire for another job in another company for your own success and are willing to undergo thorough training to make this happen. As they say, success always begins with an idea. The simple, but obvious and often overlooked, fact is this: our thoughts today determine who we will be tomorrow.

The Bible has proclaimed for thousands of years: "As he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov.23:7). Your life today is the outcome of what you have thought through the years to this very moment. If you carefully plan and prepare for your aspiration to be competent and qualified in an MNC, you will achieve it!

And be assured that God is committed to your success. First, God has given us all the principles for genuine success in His Word. Second, God has built into each person a desire for success. Third, God has given each person talents and gifts that, when developed and employed, yield the benefits of success.

God wants you to succeed and stands ready to help you succeed beyond your greatest dreams. God bless!

*(Send your requests for career advice to* rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. *Your letters will be sent to the appropriate CEO columnists who will answer your letters through this column.)*

# What is your organization's 'critical number?'

**WORKING WOUNDED**

*Bob Rosner*

DEAR WW: My wife and I bought a bed and breakfast from a couple who had been running it as a luxury inn and making a very small profit. We decided to cut operating costs way back and operate a moderate-price inn instead. We've cut costs by 25 percent but we're not seeing a similar rise in profits. What's wrong with our strategy?

Our Bedsheets Aren't Balancing

First, let me tell you about Cheryl Newton. Cheryl was caught shoplifting.

Nothing big—doughnuts, batteries, cigarettes—nabbed from her local supermarket. Total bill: $101.49. Turns out, though, that in Vermont, where Cheryl lives, any theft over $100 earns you ten years in the clink. So Newton's lawyer got savvy. He argued that the cost of Newton's heist wasn't really $101.49, but only $97.37 because some items were on sale the day she stole them. The judge agreed and sentenced Newton to just six months in jail.

So $4.12 saved Cheryl Newton 9½ years in jail, which makes it a pretty critical number. Your business has an equally critical number—one that will land YOU in hot water if you let it let it slip through your fingers. What number is it? It's the number that quantifies that aspect of your business that contributes most significantly to your profits. This is a slippery concept-but important. Hopefully, the tips below will help you get a firm grasp on it. You'll find more in "The Great Game of Business" by Jack Stack (Currency, 1992) and "Open Book Experience" by John Case (Perseus, 1998).

What is your company's critical number? Your organization's critical number is probably something that has a direct impact on your bottom line. In the hospitality industry, it's probably your occupancy rate: no matter how low your costs are, if the rooms aren't consistently full, profits are going to suffer. So I'd shift my major focus from cutting costs to figuring out how you can do a better job of marketing your inn. Sometimes, however, the critical number has only an INDIRECT impact on the bottom line. Continental Airlines realized that what drove customers to its airplanes was the number of on-time arrivals. When they focused on that critical number, their business soared.

Does everyone understand your critical number? Once you determine your critical number, don't treat it like a CIA secret. The best way to boost it is make it the focus of everyone's efforts.

What should you NOT be doing? If a critical number is good, then lots of critical numbers are better, right? Wrong! The point of a critical number is to focus your business on the one thing that matters most. Think of it as a laser pointer: focus on everything within its beam (that is, align your time, resources, etc. on it) and give other areas less attention.

Unfortunately, figuring out your company's critical number isn't easy. It's tempting to forego careful analysis and just make an educated guess. But if you do that, you're only short-changing yourself. And that would be a crime.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ ABCnews.com poll: What is the critical factor for the success of your organization?

—Keeping costs down, 6.3%
—Maximizing profits, 22.2%
—Making customers happy, 71.4%

*(Mr. Rosner is the author of best-sellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at* bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

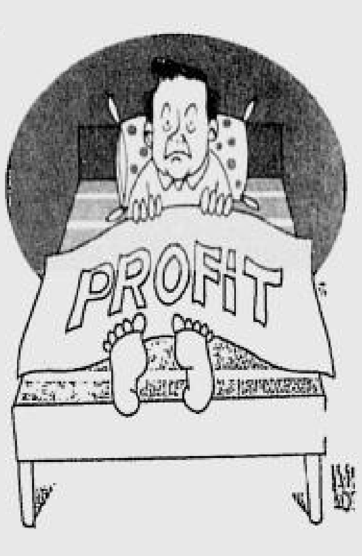

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

## Erratum

THIS is to correct some information in last week's feature on "Near death experience moves Pinoy to form own ministry in Seattle." The name should read Pastor Dino Miciano, not Maciano. Pastor Miciano is the eldest in the family and his brother, who is also a pastor in San Francisco, is second from the eldest. The eldest daughter of Pastor Miciano is 21 years old and not 18 as stated in the article.

## PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* Raul O. Marcelo
*Subsection Editor* Regina Galang Reyes

# Govt employee wants to work in MNC

**By Cynthia R. Mamon**
*President and Managing Director, Sun Microsystems Philippines, Inc.*

**ASK YOUR CEO**

I AM a CPA and I have been working in the government sector for about four years now. I have been wanting to work for a multinational corporation, but somehow all my efforts to get hired were in vain since they would usually look for those people who already have experience in MNCs. I believe I have what it takes to be successful in that sector. I am hoping you can give me some advice on how I could prepare myself or increase my chances of getting hired. Also, I'm thinking about enrolling in a course on ISO 9001 and other similar courses and becoming an ISO auditor. Do you in any way know of some courses like this being offered? Thank you and I hope you can help me on this.

CPA

CEO mentor Mamon

Thank you for your letter inquiring how to get hired by MNCs. I must admit that I can provide only limited advice with regard to this as I have not been employed in an MNC myself. As you know, I started as a government employee, turned entrepreneur and now, am a joint venture partner of a US company—an MNC. My exposure in working with them is not as an employee but as a business partner and limited to the past four years that we were made officially the representative office of Sun Microsystems.

### Discernment

You did not elaborate on your reasons for wanting to be hired by an MNC but I understand that being in the government sector, you aspire to be employed in an MNC primarily for obvious reasons. These may range from higher pay, more structured organization, more training opportunities, exposure to MNC business in general and the like. These are the typical reasons why people aspire to be employed in an MNC. Of course, there are also some reasons why people would rather not be employed in an MNC but I respect your preference.

GOV'T/B15

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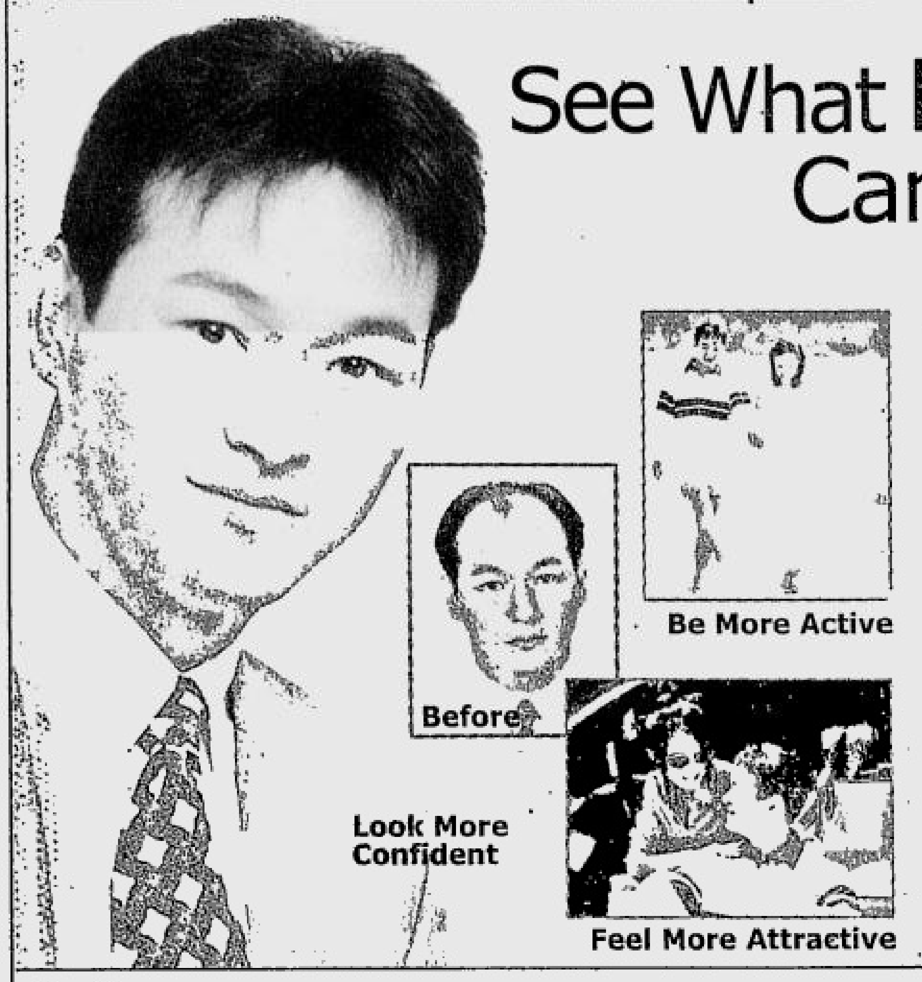

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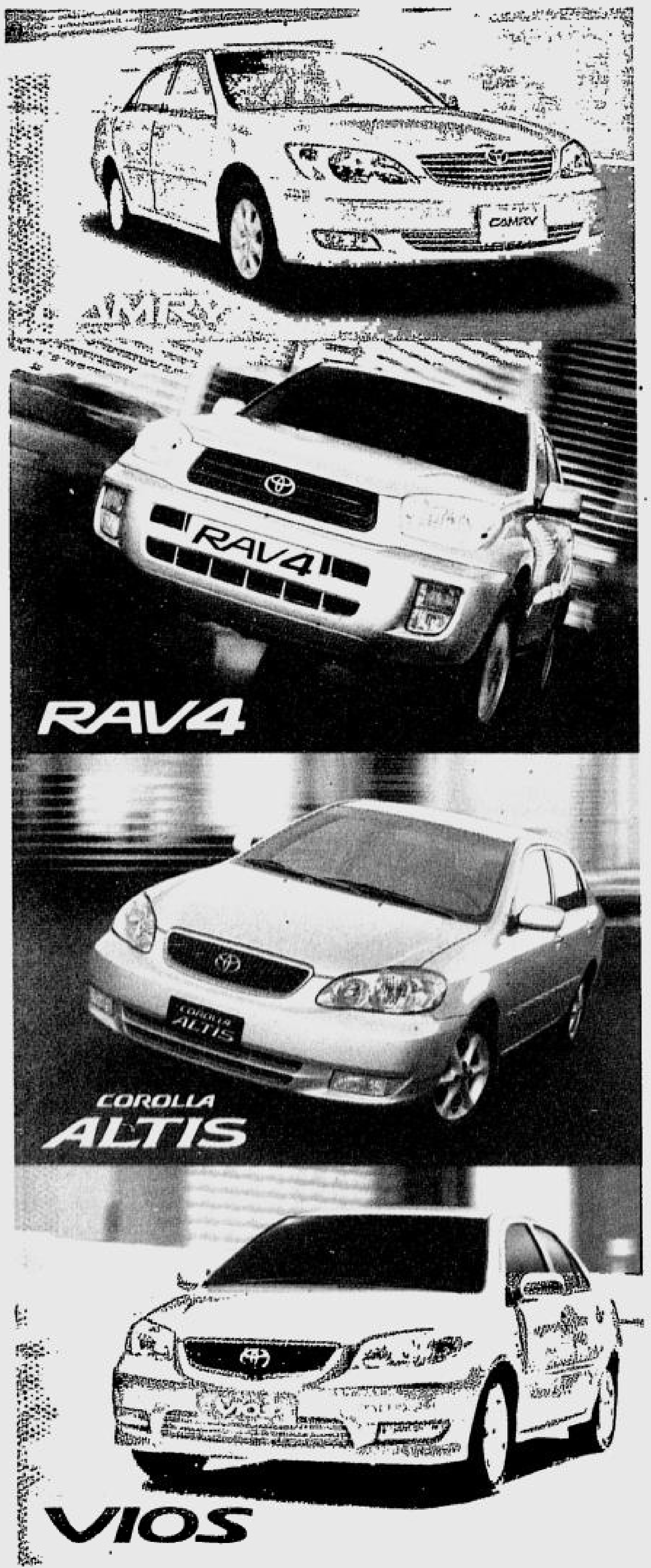

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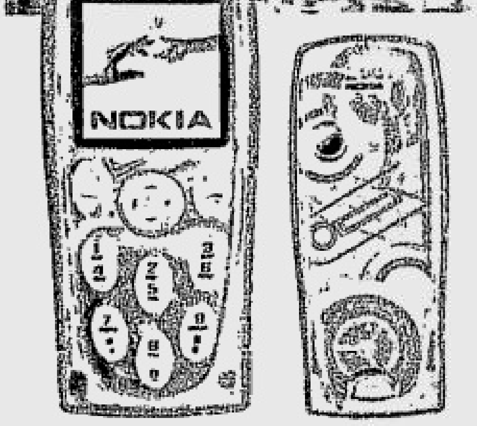
*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
*Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

LIFESTYLE
STAND OUT

# Express yourself!

Nokia's colorful StandOut event in Bangkok celebrated individuality and creative freedom—the very soul of its new 3200 phone



**Text and photos by Pam Pastor**

POP quiz, hotshot. If you were to launch a mobile phone that puts key focus on self-expression, how would you do it?

A, you would create a venue for creativity and expression and allow both performers and guests to revel in it. B, you would prepare a technological exhibit that would showcase your mobile phone's features. C, you would invite trendsetters and members of the media from different parts of the continent so they could help spread the word.

The answer is D, all of the above.

Nokia's colorful StandOut event in Bangkok was the perfect way to launch the new Nokia 3200, a phone that allows its users to fully personalize its appearance.

A massive tent was constructed at the Queen Sirikit Convention Centre and was transformed into a graffiti-covered masterpiece by young artists from the House of Indies.

This became a venue for a full night that celebrated self-expression and creative freedom. More than 300 guests walked into the tent, which had been set up to look like a street lined with various shops.

The shops were set up to showcase the different features of the Nokia 3200. And they weren't just exhibits—there were demos and activities that gave guests hands-on access to the displays for maximum interactivity.

There was, for instance, a booth called Techjazz, which allowed guests to explore the musical features of the new mobile phone.

Guests played games in another booth, with the promise that the night's highest scorer will go home with a prize.

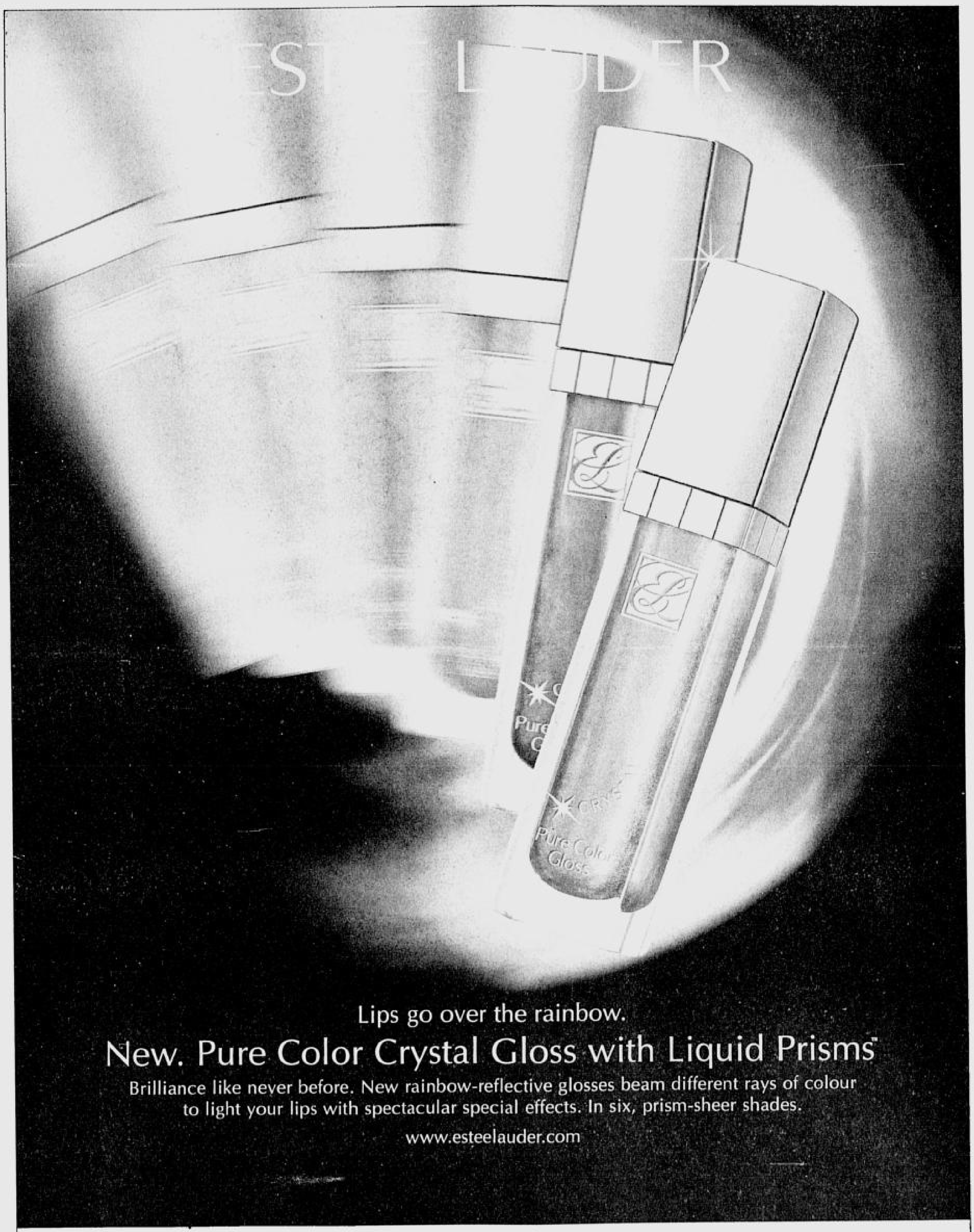
One area was devoted to letting guests explore their artistic side by designing cut-out covers for the 3200. They could also get their pictures taken and have these printed on the covers.

These shops were manned by friendly young people dressed in colorful outfits, mirroring the feel and look of the the 3200. There

EXPRESS/ C2

**PAINT-SPLATTERED** performance artists added color to the show.

**ONE** of the exhibits in the technology showcase



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STAND OUT
TECHJAZZ

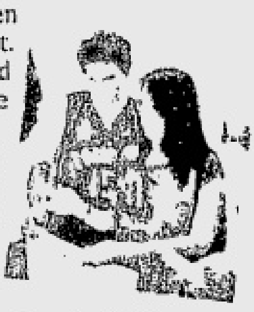
# Express yourself!

From page C1

was also the Nokia Connecting technology exhibit which featured MMS, Instant Chat, Presence, video streaming, mobile browsing and SyncML.

## Vibrance

Energy was high, and the performance artists added even more vibrance to the event. Breakdancers jumped, grooved and flipped not only on the stage but all over the venue.



Guests were treated to a different sound experience by drummers who pounded on wooden stools, plastic containers and metal pans. A group of young revelers, meanwhile, played with paint and drums, not caring that they were splattered from head to toe.

People were free to mill about the venue, watch the performances, check out the exhibits, test the phones, take pictures, interact with other people and enjoy the food prepared by Pai-kin-khao, the Thai gourmet group.

There were three stands serving different kinds of food—a fusion of tastes from the east and the west: calamari, angel hair pasta, fried tofu, salads in charming little shot glasses; crabstick rice and beef noodles in little takeout boxes; crostini smothered with spinach and cheese, duck on little puff pastries, creamy egg tarts, dim sum, skewers, sandwiches and all kinds of cakes to choose from—name it, it was there.

Boys on rollerskates circled the place carrying colorful drinks inside test tubes. Less adventurous drinkers who didn't like the idea of colliding with rollerskating waiters headed for the bar for the seemingly bottomless supply of traditional drinks.

## Support

At the same event, Shaun Colligan, general manager of Nokia Mobile Phones in Thailand, presented the House of Indies with a check for THB200,000, Nokia's Helping Hands' way of supporting these artists' pursuit for creative growth.

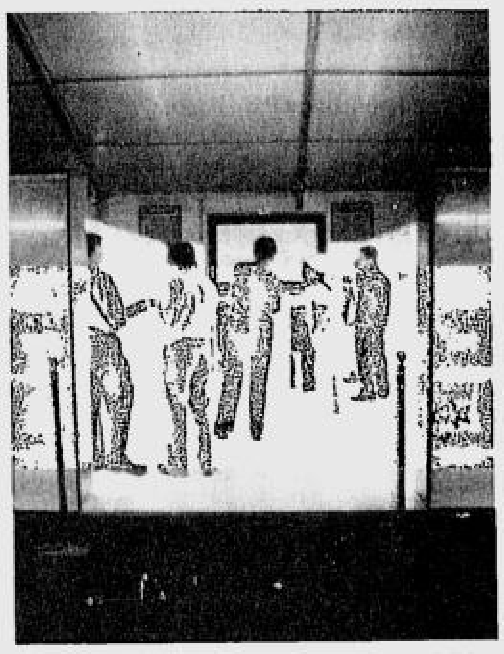
The reason for that night's revelry was Nokia's 3200, a phone that aims to capture the young market. Its features include MMS, XHTML Browsing, an integrated camera, a large color screen, polyphonic ring tones, customized contact list with images and unique ring tones, integrated flashlight, infrared connectivity, PC suite, Java technology, voice clip recording and cut-out covers.

These cut-out covers can be used to change the phone's appearance according to the user's desires. Each Nokia 3200 also comes with four cut-out covers with matching wallpapers and polyphonic ring tones, as well as 10 blank covers that users can personalize by choosing from designs online, creating their own designs on their computers or painting, pasting and sketching on the blank covers.

Asia-Pacific users may also utilize Kodak Online to upload images and have them printed for use.

The StandOut event was a celebration of creative freedom, colorful lifestyles, expression and individuality—exactly what the Nokia 3200 stands for.

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.*



**THE NOKIA** Connecting Technology exhibit. The show's kaleidoscopic energy and the excitement it generated among phone buffs are captured in the pictures above.

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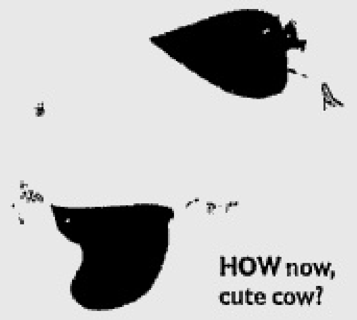
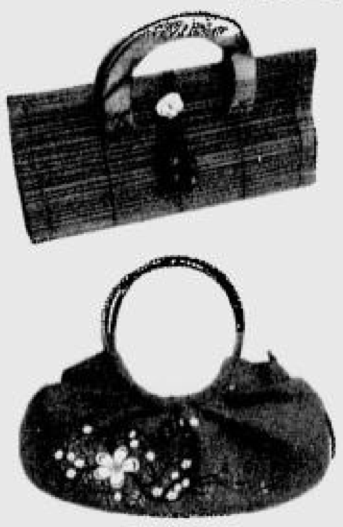


HOW now, cute cow?

ANOTHER *pasalubong* option would be Thai snacks.



# Bangkok in a day

From page C4

some of it would be refunded. Now that's what I call hospitality.

## Charming

The shopper in me had to retire for a bit to attend the event which was the real reason for our trip. But after the party, we returned to our hotel, changed into more comfortable shoes and set out again to get to know Bangkok a little more.

We jumped into a cab and asked the man to take us to Patpong, Bangkok's red light district. Located between Silom and Suriwong Road, Patpong is lined with strip joints—it's been known for that since the 1970s.

But now, it is also popular for its night market—a maze of countless stalls selling all sorts of goods. This time, Lyn and I had two new companions—two Vietnamese journalists. One of them couldn't speak English and had to resort to sign language, but he was charming, he smiled a lot and didn't complain when we wanted to keep walking. That broke down the language barrier for me.

Unlike the strip joints you see while driving by Quezon Avenue, Malate and Makati which have dim, intimidating entrances, the ones lining the streets of Patpong had their doors wide open.

Tourists who go to Patpong to shop will be distracted by the sight of scantily clad women, most of them wearing nothing but bikinis. They sit on bar stools, loiter near the door, dance, gyrate and writhe onstage while looking outside in the desire to lure people in.

Outside, barkers walk up to men, promising unforgettable shows. Apparently, some shows really are unforgettable—what with the tricks with blades, strings and bananas—but no, we didn't go in to see for ourselves.

We settled on going around the night market, which didn't exactly do much for me as most of the stalls just carried fake goods—Diesel footwear, Paul Frank shirts, Louis Vuitton luggage and on and on and on. Still, the trip to Patpong was a treat—if only for the pulsating energy we got to enjoy.

## Pleasant

The real treasures were found in the lone stalls found in the quieter streets of the area. There we found *pasalubong* options—purses with intricate designs, chopsticks of all kinds and even more bags. Again, bargaining was easy and the vendors were pleasant.

On our way back, we opted to ride a *tuktuk*, a form of public transport in Thailand. It's almost like our tricycle, only bigger and sturdier.

I held on for dear life as the *tuktuk* sped along what looked like a highway. Although fearing for my safety, I enjoyed Bangkok's cool night air as it blew through my hair. The whole ride would have been more enjoyable had the *tuktuk* driver not tried to scam us for more money. And I thought the cab drivers in Manila were bad.

We ended up walking several blocks back to our hotel. I collapsed on my bed. The next day, I sneaked in one more hour of shopping before we had to leave for the airport.

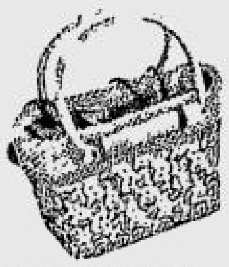
If there's one reason to envy Thais, it's their KFC. There was a KFC in the center of the airport. I was amazed to see that apart from the chicken strips (I don't know if it's just me, but their chicken strips were extra-tasty and extra-crispy), they also had chicken popcorn and chicken nuggets. Thailand's KFC also had a dessert counter, complete with sundaes and milkshakes.

Tossing our empty sundae cups into the trash bin, we made our way to our boarding gate, sad that we were leaving Bangkok and returning to reality after just one day.

My first Bangkok experience was too short. It flew by in a daze. But that first taste is enough for me to make a promise that I'm definitely going back.

With the *tuktuk*, the KFC and all the shopping areas left unexplored, I've got more than enough reason to.

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.*



BAGS range from THb200 to THb300.

## Make the most out of your baht

Arm yourself with these shopping tips before conquering the streets of Bangkok

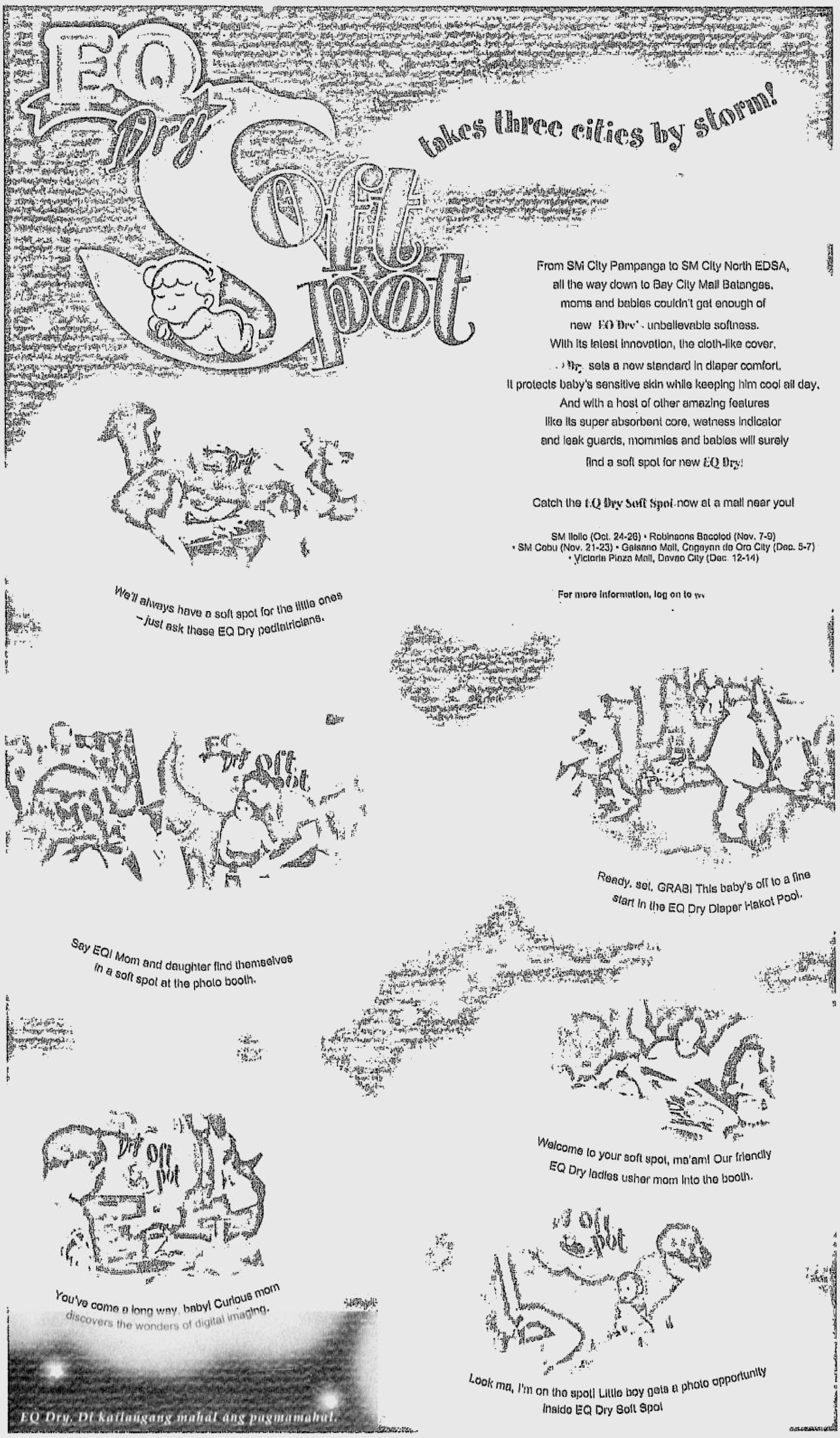
**HAGGLE, haggle, haggle.** Ignore warnings about hostile vendors. You will not get your bargains if you don't try. Just know when to back off—like when you notice that smoke is about to come out of the vendor's ears.

**Enjoy special treatment.** Maximize the city's special offers for tourists. Check for discounts and tax deductions. Keep all your receipts—you can use them for tax refunds later on.

**Forget the peso—at least during your trip.** The peso doesn't have a lot of value in Thailand. US dollars would be the way to go. For example, if $100 can be exchanged for 4,000 baht, you'd expect P5,000 to be exchanged for close to that amount, right? Wrong. I went to a money changer and tried to buy baht using pesos. They were only willing to give me 2,450 for P5,000. So again, while in Thailand, whip out the dollars and keep your pesos.

**Familiarize yourself with the forms of public transport.** Opt for the cheaper alternatives instead of splurging on cab fare. You can use the money you save for more shopping. Aside from the *tuktuk* and the buses, there are motorcycle taxis. Yes, all you have to do is hop on. Just make sure the guy supplies you with a helmet, which just takes a little getting used to. I was shocked to see women in miniskirts without helmets applying makeup while the motorcycles they were riding on weaved in and out of traffic.

**Check out the local brands.** Thailand's clothing lines are worth a closer look. Take note of the billboards you pass by from the airport. According to Tim, some of the must-see brands are Jaspal, Chaps and Xact.



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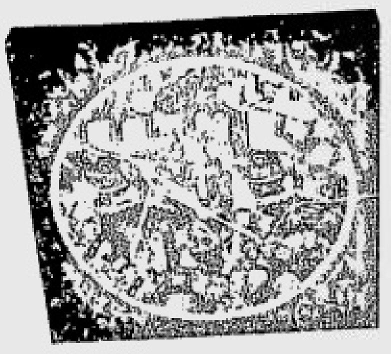

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My first experience of the city was too short, but enough for me to know I'm definitely going back

# Bangkok in a day

**By Pam Pastor**

TRYING to absorb as much of Bangkok as you can in just about 24 hours is like trying to learn your entire table of elements the night before your Chemistry finals—impossible.

I should know, I tried to do both.

I am glad to report, however, that while I failed my Chemistry finals seven years ago, Bangkok didn't fail me.

It was an enjoyable trip, albeit too short.

It was 8:00 on a Friday morning when I dragged my sleepless self to the airport to make it in time for my flight. I was so dazed that I thought the body search lady was trying to hug me.

Hours later, we landed in Bangkok, relieved that the plane ride was over. It was made uncomfortable by the man seated to my left. He was bent on getting himself drunk on the beer he kept asking the stewardess to pour for him.

I shook off the bitter smell and made my way out of the plane and into Bangkok's airport. With our bags in hand, we searched for our ride to the hotel.

Aha. There was the guy with the sign—with a muddled version of my name. Ms. Pastor Pam. At least it wasn't as bad as the bellboy's and the hotel operator's. They called me Miss Paster and Mr. Pastra.

On our way to the hotel, I stared out of the car's window and drank in my surroundings. Bangkok didn't really look very different from Manila, with its billboards and not exactly immaculate streets.

The knowledge that our time in Bangkok was very limited was enough reason for us to forego what was supposedly our rest period in our hotel, The Westin Grande Sukhumvit. We only gave ourselves enough time to check in and drop our bags off before going out again.

We had lunch at a delightful little Indian restaurant called Dosa King, which was right outside our hotel. An Indian family was dining quietly in one corner while a man sat alone at his table, polishing off his curry.

The papadum, roti and dhal I ordered were heavenly. The vegetable samosas were tasty and filling. The entire meal made me feel wistful for India.

Vegetarians would enjoy Bangkok—with its ample array of restaurants serving meatless dishes.

## Unused

I researched before leaving Manila, like I usually do when going to a country for the first time. I surfed the Internet and asked friends to recommend good shopping sites. I traveled with a notebook scrawled with names of shopping areas and a sheaf of webpage printouts all telling me where to go for the best deals.

Unfortunately, because traffic in Bangkok is like Manila's, and because our time was very limited, most of my maps and shopping guides went unused. Not to say that we didn't find good bargains, though, because we did.

All we had to do was walk a little along the Sukhumvit area and sidewalk stalls piled high with merchandise greeted us.

Bags, shoes, boxer shorts, accessories, shirts and home décor stared at us from their sidewalk havens and tried to seduce us into buying them. Some of the shopping guides I had read warned tourists to be careful with haggling too much. According to the guides, some vendors can get hostile. I didn't see a trace of that.

The age-old haggling trick worked in our shopping expedition in the Sukhumvit area. Ask for the price, demand for the price that you want and when they say no, walk away and let them chase after you until they finally give in to your desired price. In less than 30 minutes, I was able to buy two pairs of shoes, a bag and boxer shorts.

The shoes went for 200 baht each, the bag for 250 baht and the boxers for 80 baht each. Nokia's Lyn Montealegre, who was my shopping partner for that day, was excellent at bargaining.

We made our way farther down the road but rain started to pour. Since we didn't have an umbrella with us, we dashed back to the hotel, clutching our purchases. We walked into the lobby drenched but laughing.

Not one to let a little rain stop my inner shopping monster, I ran to my room for a quick change and went back out again. Because it was still raining hard and I didn't think my jacket was powerful enough, my destination was Robinsons, the department store right beside my hotel.

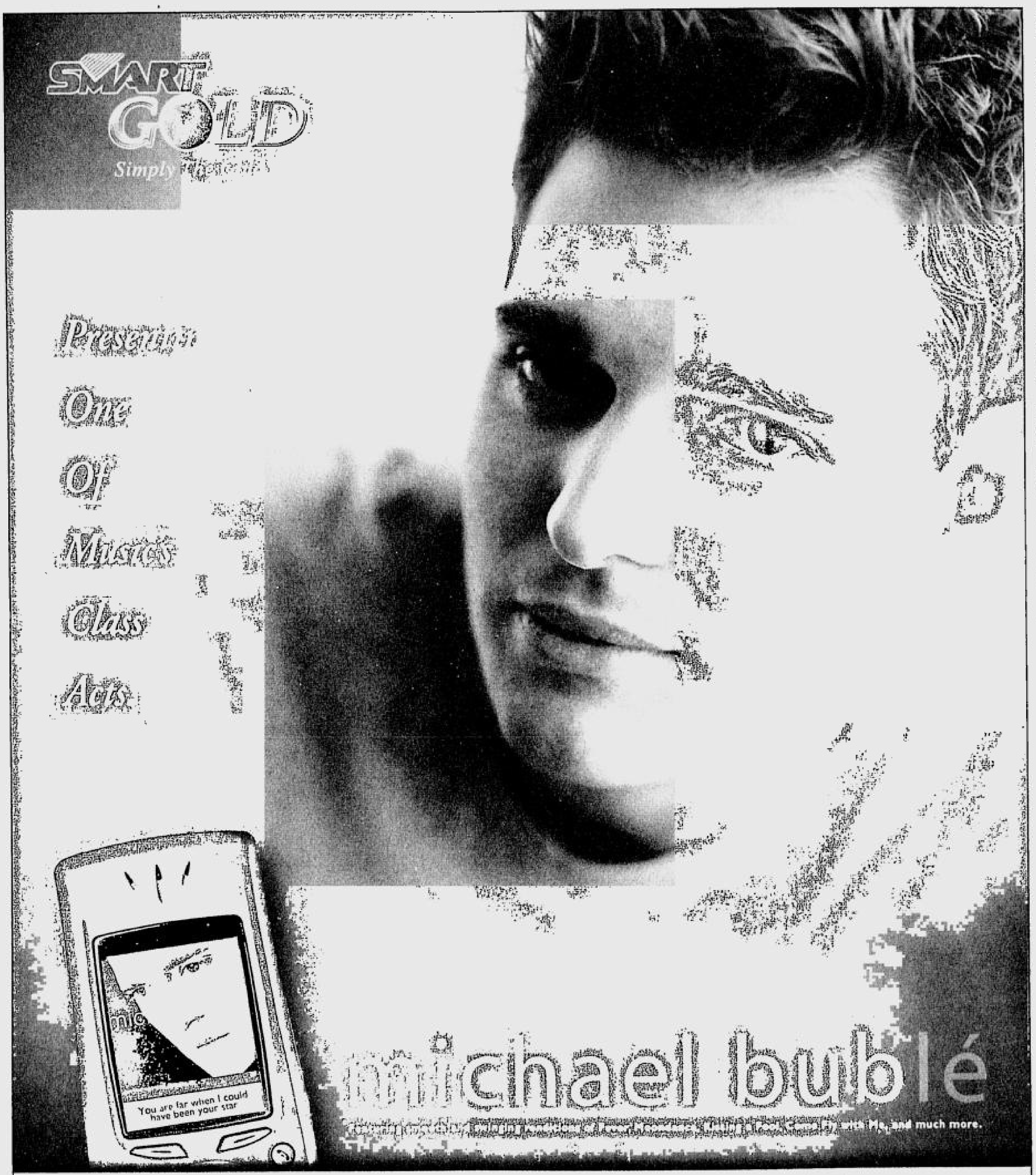
A lot of the local brands I was told to look out for were in Robinsons. The best part of the department store was B2S—an area for books and DVDs. I got the new original Chicago DVD for only 219 baht. I even found a copy of the elusive Korean movie "My Sassy Girl," but unfortunately it had no English titles.

Robinsons also had a section for cute gift items—from little trinkets and accessories to stuffed animals and fluffy slippers. It reminded me of my childhood sprees at Gift Gate. I went a little crazy there, buying stuffed animals for my friends.

If there's one more thing to love about Bangkok, it's the fact that they love tourists. The cashier asked me for my passport—and when I said I left it in the hotel safe, she asked for my keycard. Apparently, tourists get a discount when they shop—they slash off the taxes.

Robinsons even had a promo where, if you spend a certain amount of money in a day,

BANGKOK/ C3



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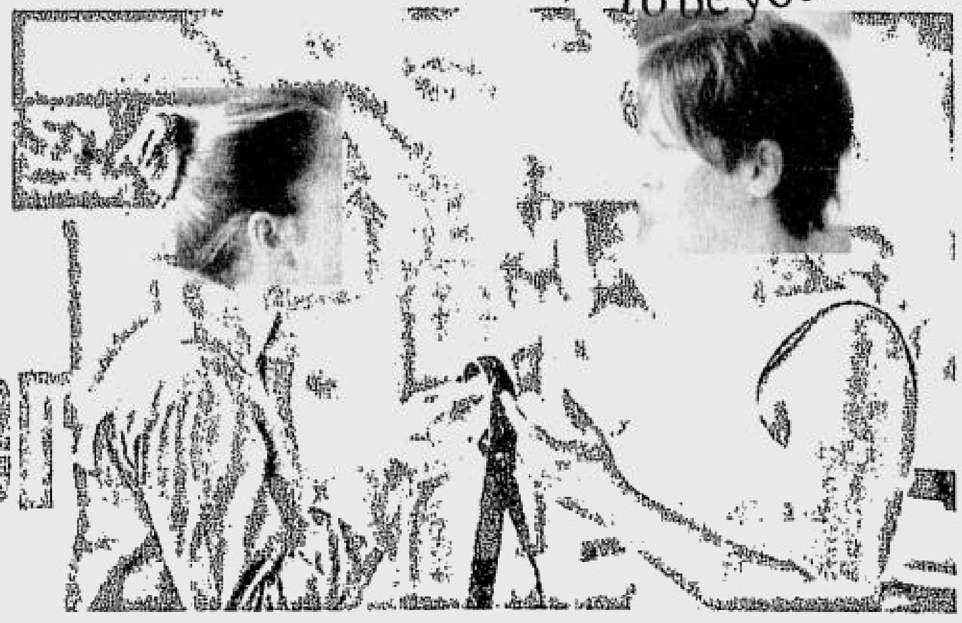
# Sweet child star is now teen rocker

After bringing her parents together in a movie, Lindsay Lohan now swaps bodies with mom



LOHAN as Annabell Coleman and Jamie Lee Curtis as Tess Coleman

**By Janet Susan R. Nepales**
*Contributor*

LOS ANGELES—The once 12-year-old little red-haired girl with the cute smile and freckles has been transformed, five years later, into a 17-year-old blonde-streaked rocker.

Lindsay Lohan, the child star of "The Parent Trap," is now a full-fledged teenager.

She is Anna, the 15-year-old daughter of psychologist Dr. Tess Coleman (Jamie Lee Curtis), in the Disney box-office comedy hit, "Freaky Friday." She swaps bodies with Curtis after a fortune cookie "mishap" in a Chinese restaurant.

Lohan, even in a sexy top and denim pants, is still the warm, sweet and charming girl of five years ago. But she is now much more confident and knowledgeable of the business.

"When I appeared in 'The Parent Trap,' I didn't know anything about show business," the blue-eyed teener says. "Everything was all new to me. Now I have seen what other people have done and I have more experience, so I am now more comfortable."

Asked about her mother-manager, Dina, a former Radio City Rockette, Lohan says she doesn't mind having her mother as manager because "I know I can always trust her opinions. I'm not 18 yet, so I really rely on her. I would be foolish not to listen to her. In addition, if there's a script and it's ridiculous and they want me to do it, my mom would talk to them. So she's really more my mom than my manager."

## Cool to be close to mom

The eldest daughter of Dina and Michael, a former soap opera actor now into potato chips, Lohan admits she is "really close to my mom which is really cool. I think that if I try and not be frank with her, I'd be stupid because she knows what I'd do anyway. Like if I told her I was going to a friend's house when actually I'm really going to a party, she knows. So I'd rather be honest with her because she always understands."

She admits she has curfew especially when she is driving her car (a BMW sports convertible). "I am the eldest child, and driving is the scariest thing for my mom," she explains.

Lohan was one of the up-and-coming celebrities on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine in July's "It's Totally Raining Teens" theme.

"Freaky Friday," a remake of the 1976 movie starring Barbara Harris and Jodie Foster, allows Lohan to show her versatility once more as her character Anna switches places with her mom.

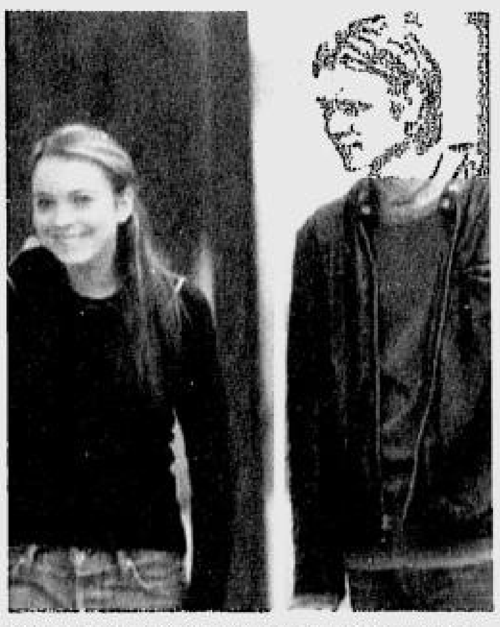
She doesn't want any comparisons with Foster, though. "Oh my gosh, that's nerve-racking," she gasps. "I don't even know why people would compare me to Jodie Foster because she is amazing! I didn't want to base my character on her because I wanted to develop my own character. I'd never be happy with myself if I watched Jodie's 1976 version. I want to start fresh and that's what Jamie (Lee Curtis) and I did. We started on a clean plate. We worked with each other."

Co-star Curtis says, in a separate interview, "With all due respect, Jodie Foster is kind of rigid in the teenager part."

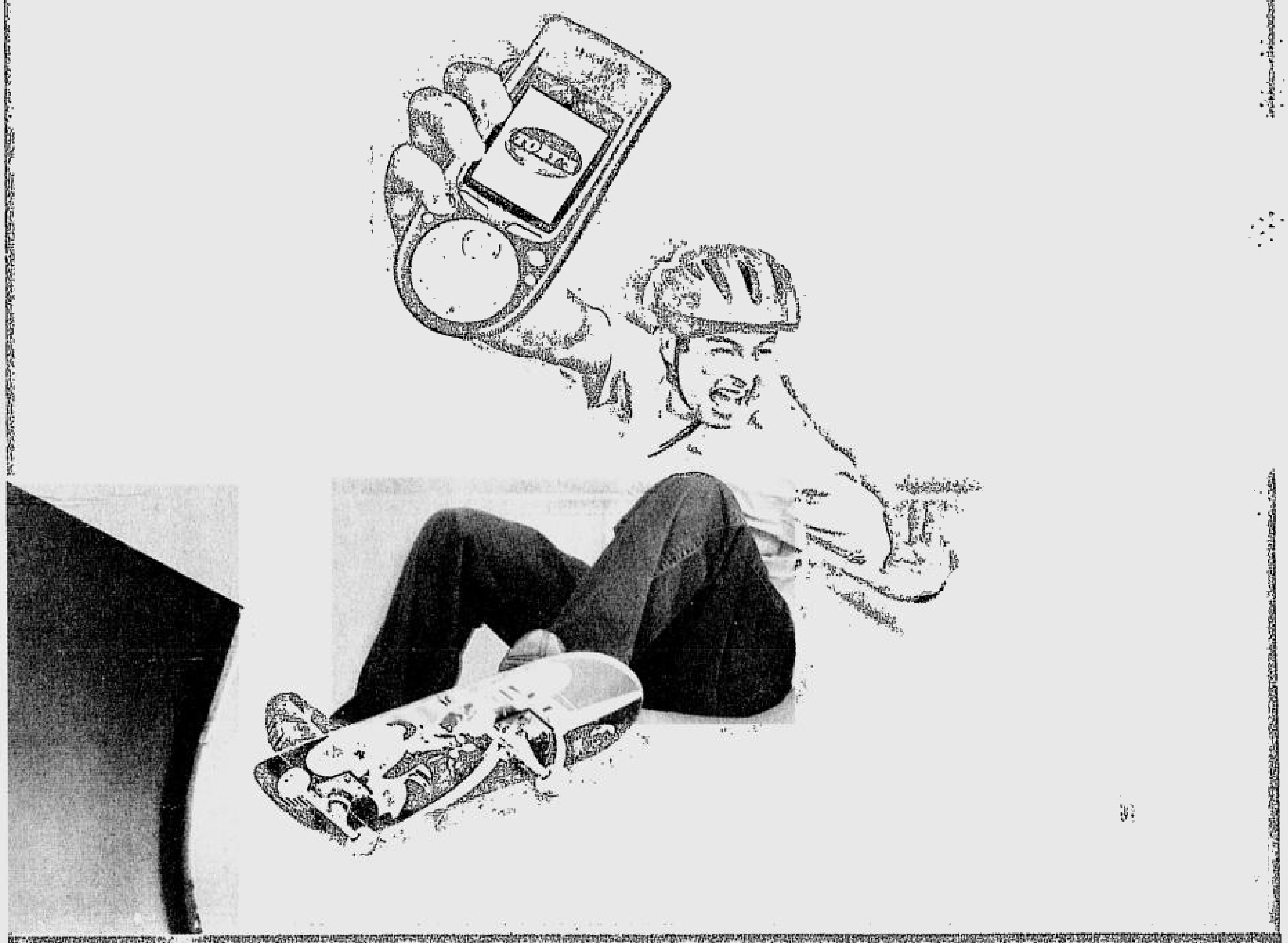
## The best

Director Mark Waters ("Head Over Heels", "The House of Yes") says thousands of girls auditioned for the role of Anna before they narrowed it down to 12 and then two. "But

SWEET/ D2



**NOT SO FREAKY.** Lohan with Jake, her love interest in the movie played by Chad Murray



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# 'No commitments' ruins her self-respect

*Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino*

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I met Ric six months ago in a bar. He courted me since then, but a month after, he jokingly said that he'll no longer court me because I'm just a kid. (I'm a junior college student and he's on his third year in law school.)

I was falling for him already and he advised me to just go with the flow. Although he was joking when he said he'd stop courting me, I soon realized that he was serious about it because he had stopped wooing me the way he has wooed me before. But we still see each other until now. We even went to bed several times already. But he made it clear that there's no commitment involved.

I don't like our situation and I started to hate myself, so I decided to avoid him. I swear I made every possible way to avoid him. I even changed my cell phone number but he still found out through texting my cousins. I'm actually avoiding him without him knowing it. But every time I try to avoid him and even think about him, I get hurt. When I just go with the flow, I don't feel pain but I still hope he'd soon realize my worth. But I know that just going with the flow will only ruin me and my self-respect.

By the way, I didn't tell him I love him but I think he knows already, but then again he's too insensitive to feel it.

RICA MAMBA

> Sometimes, being happy is just finding out what can make you happy and going for it

What do you want the most? For him to realize your self-worth? For you to lose self-respect? Sometimes, being happy is just a matter of finding out what can make you happy (or the happiest) and going for it.

But, of course, the world just has to complicate things by adding in limitations, catches, conditions.

Know what exactly is going on. Define your relationship and find out if it works for you. It seems like he just wants your body whenever he gets a super hard-on. He has made it clear that there should be no commitment. Are all of these okay for you? If they are, then hanging on can probably lead him to realize your worth.

If, on the other hand, you value your self-respect more, then you know what to do. Besides, there are many Dicks (or Toms and Harries) out there to bed and be in love with (easy for me to say, I know.).

It would also be great if you'd fill him in on exactly how you feel about the whole set-up. If just in case he still doesn't know that you love him, maybe telling him that you do will change things. Maybe he'll leave you alone, maybe he'll treat you better. For all you know, he might have been pinning you to the sheets thinking all you wanted was that.

Just weigh. Carefully, honestly. Once you know what you really really want, then you can go for it.

MARK

You do know that by trying to avoid him, you're already doing the right thing, don't you?

While having sex with him makes you feel good, it would be infinitely better if you'd still feel good while doing other things with him. Plus, nothing beats having the emotional investment that you put into a relationship being reciprocated. I am sure you know these things, too.

So what I would like you to do is to continue what you've been doing. Avoid him until he gets knocked on the head and realizes that as your lover/vague partner, he's been treating you like s--t. And that he is wrong in doing that.

The pain you feel is merely a reminder that sometimes, you just can't have everything. Trade-offs have to be made at certain times. But it is in these situations that we learn who we really are and what is more important to us.

SEPTEMBER

*Don't know what you want? Everything? Nothing? E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com*

JAMIE Lee Curtis and Mark Harmon star as Annabell's parents.

# Sweet child star is now teen rocker

From page D1

Lindsay was the best because she was capable of portraying an adult without making it appear like it was a school play... She also looked good with a guitar strap on her shoulder since she is the lead guitarist of a band in the movie. She really sang that final song 'Ultimate' at the end of the movie during her mother's wedding. She really played the guitar accurately that even her guitar coach was impressed," Waters said.

"I love learning the guitar and I love to sing," says Lohan, who will also sing on the soundtrack of her next film, "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen." Lohan points out that "this (Confessions) will be my first movie without an adult to lean on. It's just me carrying the movie and I'm so scared! The movie will be all on my shoulders. I hope that my audience knows me already. I don't want to do a psychological thriller anyway. I don't think people want to see me killing someone. I have to be very careful with what I do because even if I want to branch out a little bit and do other things, I can't branch out too much because once you lose your innocence, it's gone and you can't go back."

Lohan's talents have already been noticed by film critics.

Los Angeles' Daily News says of "Freaky Friday": "Lohan remains a genuine charmer without cutesying up the role."

USA Today notes, "Lohan, tapping into her inner parent, also has some amusing moments. Almost unconsciously, she reaches out and tugs down a friend's midriff-baring shirt. Later, she proclaims: 'I don't believe in physical contact with the opposite sex. Ever. And you girls would do well to follow my example.'"

## First kiss

In the movie, Lohan has her first onscreen kiss. "It's an innocent little kiss, but it's a kiss," smiles Lohan. "I'm sure my dad will walk out of the theater. The kiss is going to be really hard for him to watch," she laughs.

The lucky recipient of the kiss is Chad Michael Murray who appears as Jake, the high school hunk. Murray developed a comfortable chemistry with Lohan, which helped when she had her first onscreen kiss with him.

When asked how she is with boys, Lohan confesses, "I'm actually very insecure. I tend to shy away from boy/girl situations. I'm so self-conscious that I feel if I make one mistake like wear a bad outfit, it could ruin me and my career."

When asked what she looks for in boys, Lohan says, "Pleasant personality and confidence are important traits for me in a boy. If they're over-confident, I just put them in their place."

Lohan laughs when asked if she was excited to hug and kiss heartthrob and Demi Moore's current flame, Ashton Kutcher, during the recent Teen Awards. "Ha ha ha. Oh gosh. That's funny. I met him already before the Teen Awards show on 'Saturday Night Live.' It was cool. I was nervous... and Jamie (Lee Curtis) and I were up there. It was fun but I don't want my friends treating me differently just because I get to do 'star' stuff like that. What's the point? We're just actors. It's different though if we're saving other people's lives. They are the ones who need to be recognized."

She adds, "I admire people but I'm not one of those who would freak out just because someone's a celebrity or something... I've seen people who freak out and their personalities change... one time, a girl cried after meeting me. I asked her, 'Why are you crying?' And she said she was just so happy meeting me. That really freaks me out!"

Does she want to pursue singing career? "That's not really where my heart is," she says. "I love acting and I love being in front of the camera. That is my passion right now."

MOM and daughter find out just how much trouble fortune cookies can get you into.

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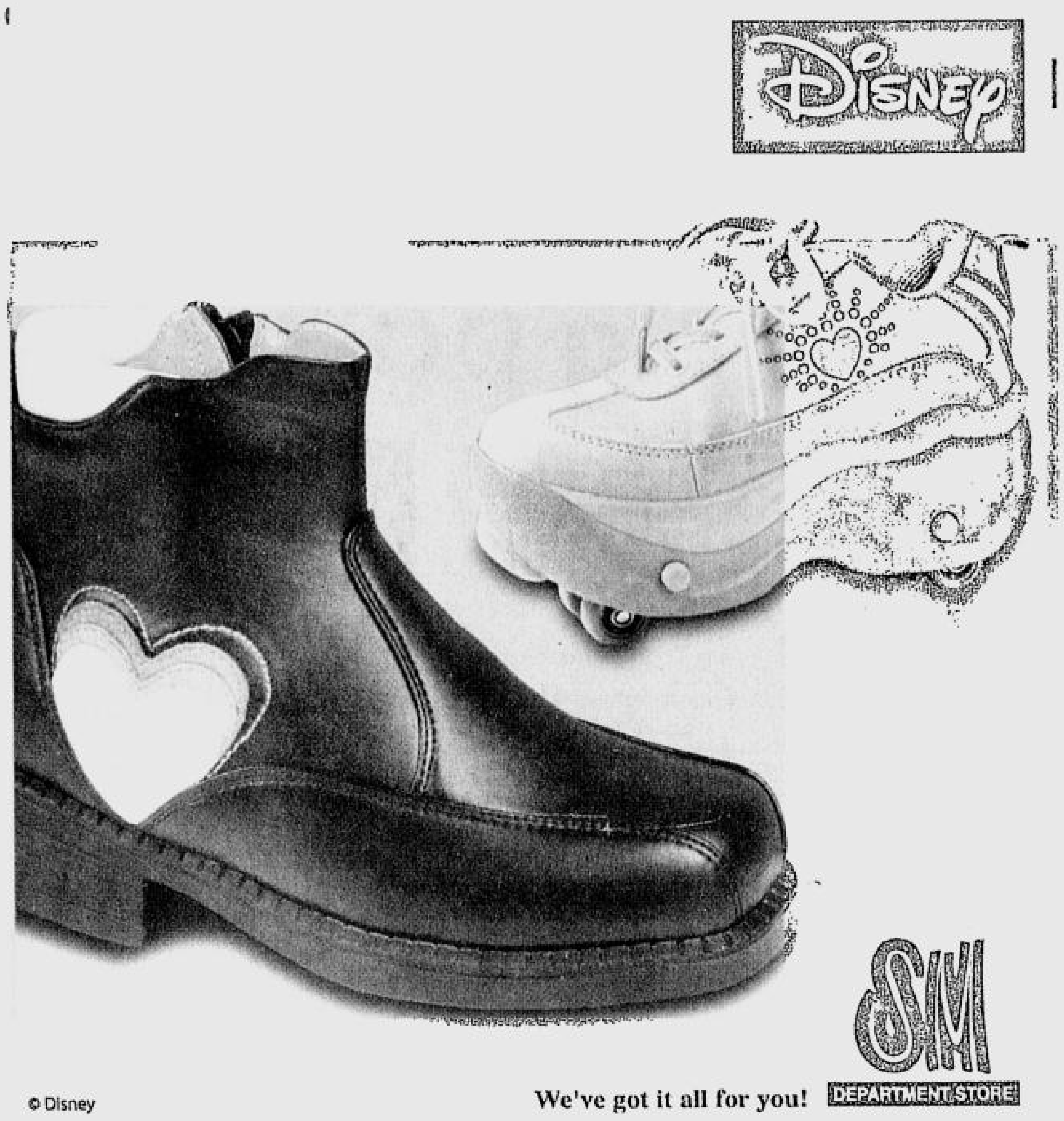
NU Skin Philippines, Inc (NSPH) invites its executives and distributors to join the Make-A-Wish Project, which will benefit the little tots of Mabuhay Deseret Foundation (MDF), a center for indigent children with physical deformities such as crossed eyes, cleft lip/palate and clubfoot.

If you are a Nu Skin distributor or executive, this is your chance to be the Santa Claus of a child from MDF by helping him realize his wishes. You can sponsor as an individual or as a group, together with two or three colleagues.

Visit any NSPH walk-in center in Metro Manila and claim a letter from a MDF child. The letter you will receive bears a child's name, his wish and some information which may help you in fulfilling his or her wish. The gifts may be forwarded to the walk-in-center, where they will be placed under a Christmas tree. Other donations may likewise be submitted there.

On Nov. 13, during the NSPH Success Seminar, you will have the opportunity to meet the child you are sponsoring and personally present your gift. Call 6890333.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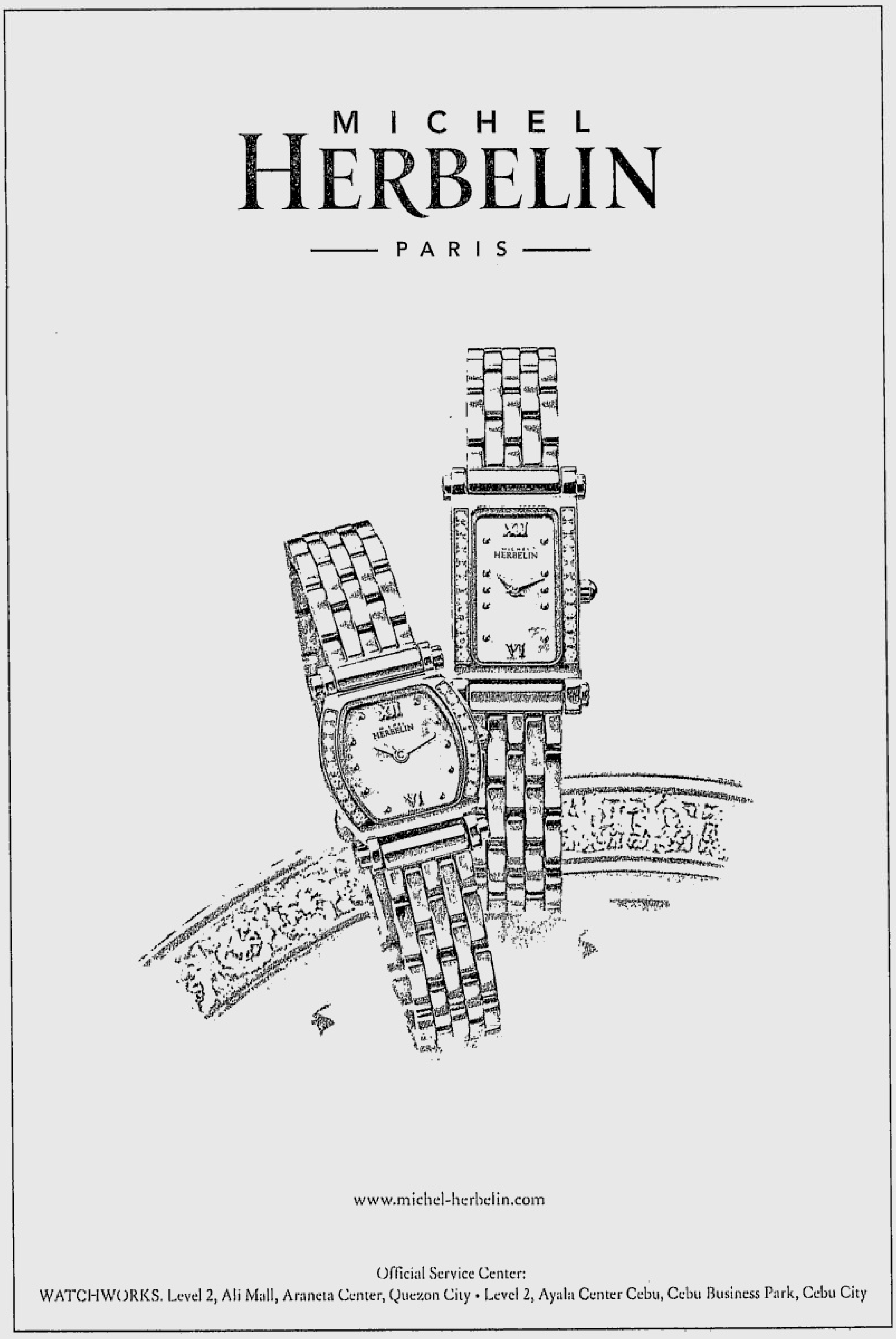
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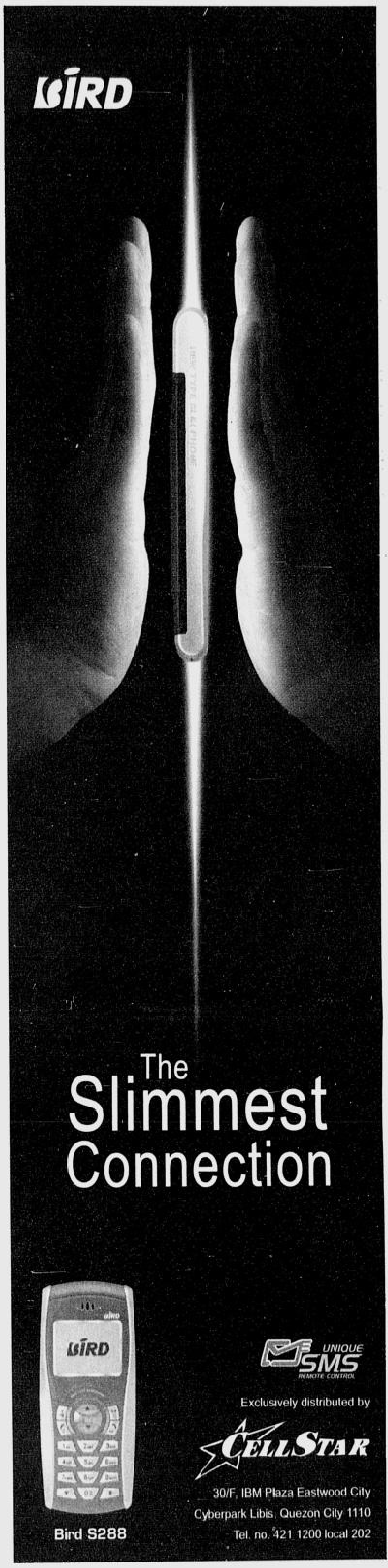
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**BUDDHA BARISTA.** DJ Benoit Cassar spins his sensual set.

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**ARTSY TWO.** Steve Tirona and Kat A.

**BELLE EPOQUE.** Myrza Sison, Tals Diaz, Kate Torralba, Ronald Pasion and Barbie Pardo

**YOUTHQUAKE.** Martin Escalona and Michelle Pamintuan

**B-LIST.** Buda Concio

# Bright lights, big parties

**GOOD OL' DAYS.** Shannen Torres, Chuck Syjuco and Markus Maguigat

*Tim Yap*

MANILA is learning how to party in a sober way. Well, not quite.

Last week's flurry of parties brought just about everyone out on the block. Friday night's peak of a Buddha Bar experience had French DJ **Benoit Cassar** spinning upbeat chill tunes. Some felt it was too slow a set for a night so pumpin' hot, while others thought it was just the perfect kind of high.

Whichever fetish floated in your boat, the city was teeming with choice hotspots all ready for the bacchanalian buck. Whether your taste leaned toward raising the roof or raising the bar tabs, all it took was a surge of fighting spirit to paint the town red!

At the fab Rockwell event space called The Loft, giant Buddha heads occupied the dancefloor—not quite Buddha Bar, not even Temple—but the vibe sort of made up for it. Partyphiles were moving around and standing about. Some waited for stuff to happen while others made stuff happen—exactly how the cookie crumbles in this kind of town.

## Friendster and Atkins

I spotted **Ronald Pasion** and **Brando Umali** (formerly known as the Warp designing duo) having a moment, and it made me feel proud seeing them both come full circle as artists. All the different cliques showed up—the posh, the groovy, the *coños*, the fashionistas and the bohemians were in one space grooving to the beat.

**MODEL TRIO.** Adrian Zabala, Ria Pau and Francis Reynoso

**LEGS** on the ledge

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP AND RONALD PASION

**CALCARRIES'** hottie (left) with Chere and Sao at hotspot Yaku

**SUPER!** From hot fotog Paolo Pineda to rock legend Pepe Smith at the Loft

"Look at em'—all drunk and happy," said a scene observer.

Gone are the days when party folk wore their sunglasses at night, when bottled water was the drink of choice, and where inhalers and glow sticks were the hip accessories to have.

Those days, a massage was the best pick-up line. Now it's back to good ol' conversation, plus a few good moves.

If you ask anyone the question "What are you on?" chances are, they're on F and A.

The "F" word has been replaced by Friendster, and "A" means Atkins—two things that cityphiles this side of town can't get enough of. Hmmm. If you can't beat em...

After the party, everyone hopped over to V—now occupying the top-of-mind slot as the "where-do-we-go-for-a-last-drink?" spot.

Although, of course, when you do get there, you stay until it's only you and the doorman left. Then you know it's time to go home. Sunrise is here. *Now* you need your shades.

## This week

Wednesdays is Hump night at Bed in Malate. Now exactly what that means... I don't know. I'd rather hop by on a Thursday, where it's 50-percent off on drinks.

Also on Thursdays, it's a sin to miss Azzuro's Plush R&B night. now with a super-strong following among posh R&B afficionados. **Steve Mills** is responsible for this, of course.

The great thing about the Sommerset Hotel, on the other hand. is that, just like a lover, you can go up and you can go down. Down there is Yaku, where the vibe is young and hot! Two choices are always better than one, right?

It's also Ice Vodka bar's first anniversary. The bar with the most extensive premium vodka list (thanks to **Choy Lagdameo's** meticulous taste for booze) turns a new icy leaf with DJ **Elian Habayeb's** brand of "cerebral" house. Soothe your senses with this icy spree.

Then, the Puma store at Greenbelt also opens on this night! These "ber" months really bring a whole slew of additions to the hip retail scene. The biggest LV store in Manila is likewise opening this November with a big shebang and a secret after-party. A Gucci store will follow suit. Poshies, take your cue.

Friday night, ABS-CBN turns 50 at the PICC with the biggest gathering of tinseltown heavies this side of our planet. In the past few weeks, assorted designers and stars' handlers have been in a tizzy preparing for the show. Let's keep our fingers crossed that these glitz biz personas are able to live up to the style fantasies of the public.

On another note, Mandarin Oriental Manila stages its third Oktoberfest celebration at the NBC Tent at the Fort next week, Oct. 24 and 25 from 7 p.m. onwards. The hotel is bringing in the 11-piece Bavarian Sound Express. Check them out for a night of German franks, sausages and free-flowing beer. Call 7508888 for tickets.

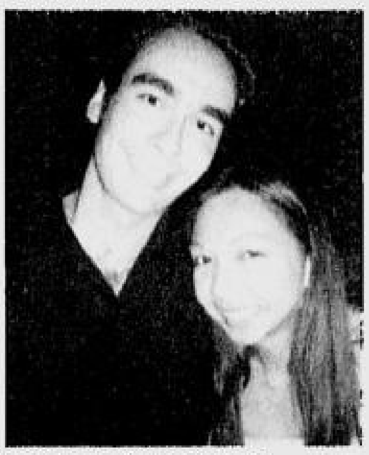
As early as now, have your Halloween costumes ready. Greenbelt will have its "Rock and Royalty"-themed parade for this occasion, while the Fort whips up its Cream Halloween Ball.

And, oh, it's 71 days to Christmas.

Super!

**SEASONED PARTYPHILES.** Katrina Lagman and Dr. Felipe Villaroman

**SCRAMBLED.** BBC's Edge Pamute and Kara Tolentino


**OUT THE WINDOW.** Brian Banta and Super's Tals Diaz

**WARPED.** Maricar Lim, Ronald Pasion, Joan Pablo and Brando Umali

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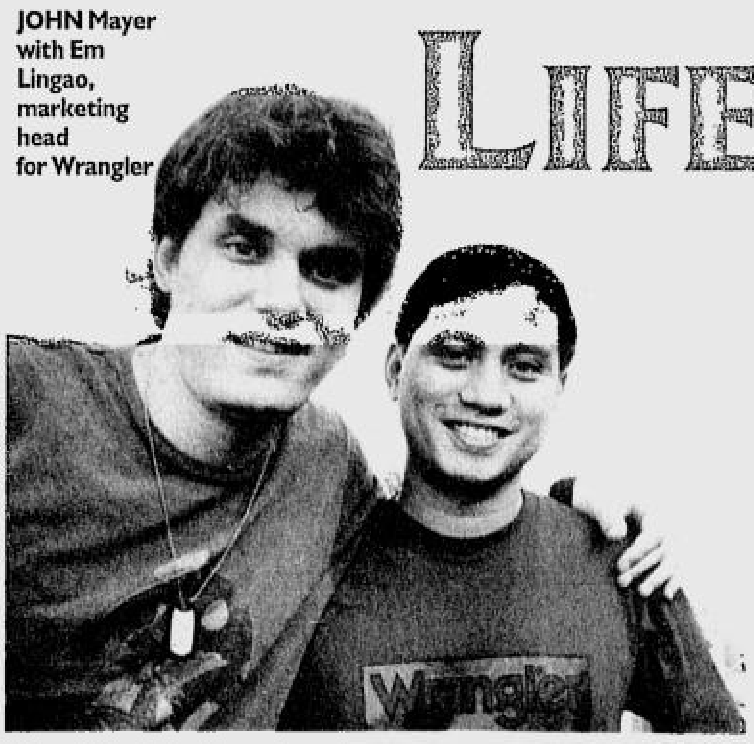

JOHN Mayer with Em Lingao, marketing head for Wrangler

The Grammy winner is bigger and more passionate in person

# IN WONDERLAND with John Mayer

WRANGLER jeans assembled a team headed by product manager Em Lingao and Sony Philippines' marketing manager Roslyn Reyes. They went to New Jersey to watch him live, and Wrangler sent two winners from Manila to watch the concert with them. Read on and get the chance to win John Mayer CDs and special prizes from Wrangler. By the way, every Wrangler store purchase entitles customers to free John Mayer stuff as well.

Here, radio DJ Miles Garcia of Magic 89.9 dwTM had to chance to talk to Mayer about the Grammys, being on tour with the Counting Crows, collaborations and the possibility of going to Manila.

**First of all, congratulations on winning the Grammy for best pop vocal performance for "Your Body Is A Wonderland."**

Thank you.

**Was it something you always dreamed about, as a musician?**

No, winning a Grammy is kinda like one of those results of making your dream come true. It was always like... and a Grammy would be cool too. But for me, my dream was to play in front of a bunch of people and have them all recognize that I'm a guitar player and a singer. I mean, my dream had less to do with how many records I sold but just being recognized for what I do 'cause I think I spent so much of my kind-of-kid life wanting people to see me for what I knew I was, a musician.

**And with hundreds of fans, being on the road all the time, is it easy to lose touch with reality?**

Actually, it's not. It's not hard to keep a hold on reality. I mean, I think that that's the image that people have of this life, that it's just one big head-spinning event, but I have so many people around me that keep me grounded that if ever I was to become kind of cheesy and shallow, I think people would smack me around before I even got that bad!

**Like your parents and friends...?**

At least my friends... the people who play on stage with me would say, you've changed. But it's not as hard as people think it is. I think the only thing that's hard is the actual scheduling of things. It's hard to do anything with something this time-intensive but it's not very hard to stay grounded if you want to.

**Being on tour for almost two years, it's hard being on the road, away from your family and friends. How do you deal with it?**

Well, you deal with it by understanding that it's the trade-off for doing exactly what you want to do. I deal with it now by saying to myself, "You know, I've got nothing better to do at the moment so I might as well work (hard) so that the day I do have something better to do, at any given moment, I can kinda take a break from it." You know, if I wasn't playing music on stage right now, I'd be at home watching reruns of "Seinfeld," so I'm doing all right. I can't complain.

Your first album was phenomenal and to come up with a second album, was it a daunting prospect? Since a lot of people loved the feel of the first album, did you keep in mind that people would expect more of that?

I sure kept it in mind... I'd be lying if I said I didn't, but I think I never got to the point where I let it get to me. There were a couple of nights when I thought... Wow, people in Australia are gonna be hearing what I'm doing right now in my underwear! That's a little scary! I think when you write your first record, you have no idea who's gonna be hearing it. When you write your second record, you know exactly who's gonna be hearing it. But I only thought about that for a couple of times. For the most part, I was focused on actually creating the music 'cause I knew I didn't have that much time to sit around.

**I heard that you actually thought of naming the new album "Home Life," but changed it to "Heavier Things."**

Yeah, but I think every band or artist goes through several different titles for a record. "Home Life" is a song on the record and there were moments that that song felt so important to me that I was going to name the album "Home Life." But the whole album doesn't feel like that. The whole album feels

IN WONDERLAND/ E3

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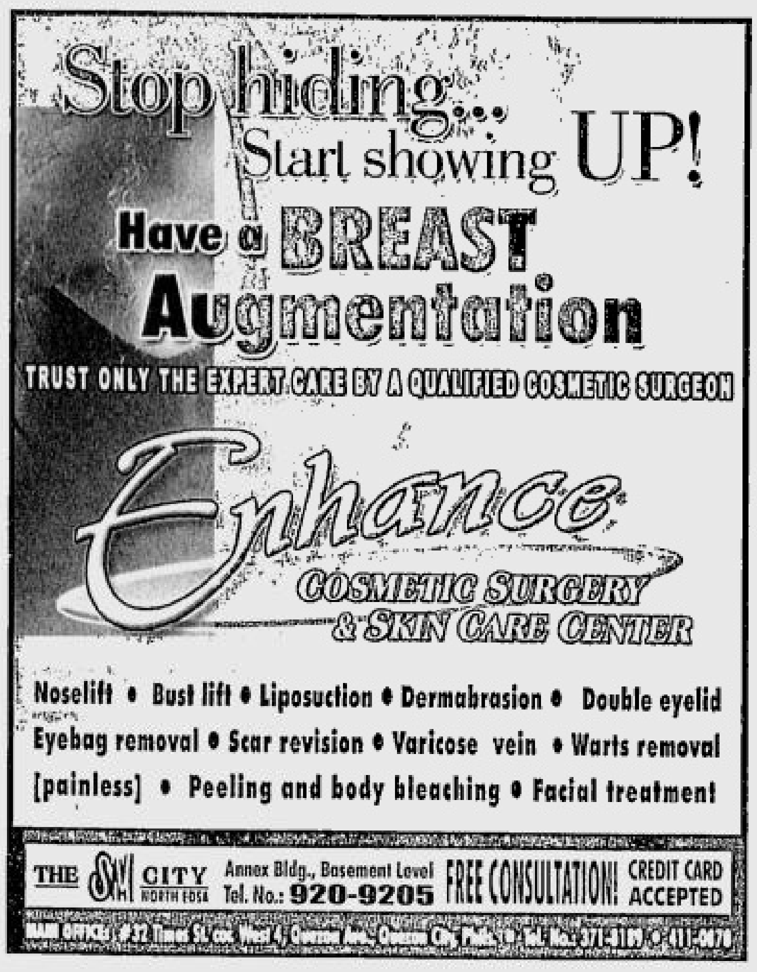
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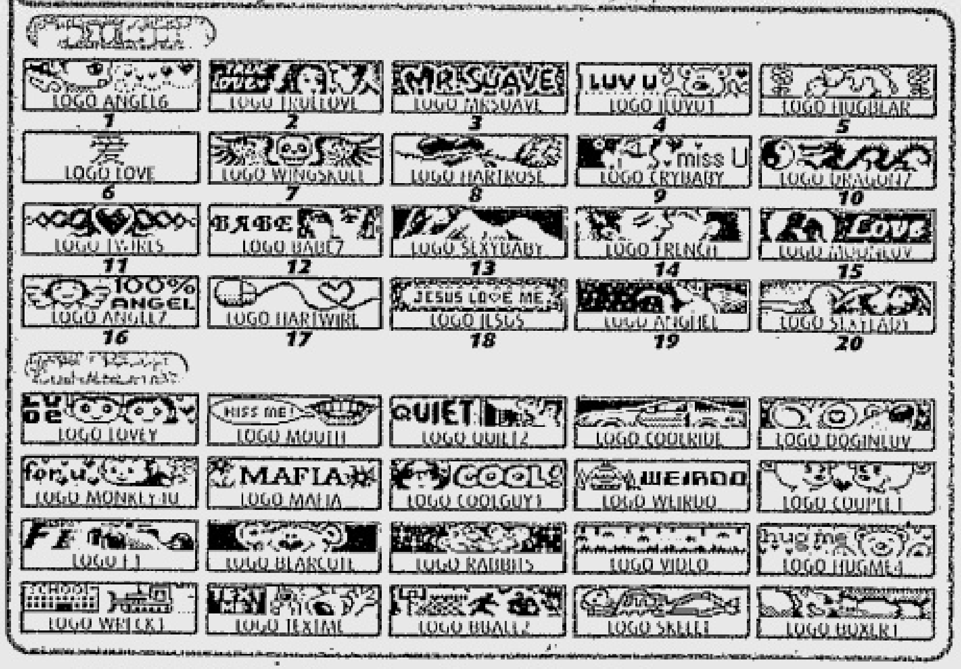

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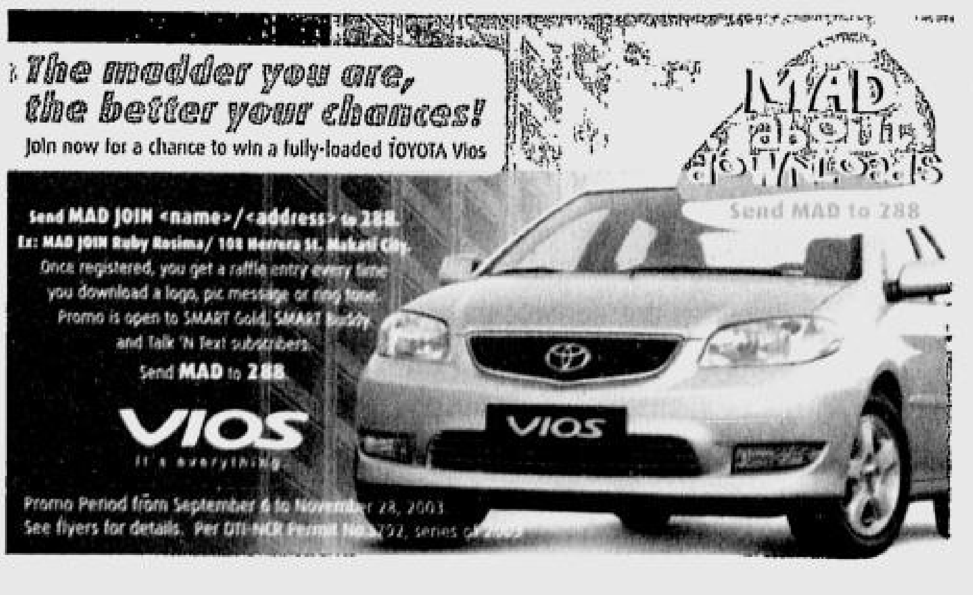
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| 2 | Spaghetti Song | *Sexbomb* | **TONE SPAG** |
| 3 | I'll Be | *Edwin McCain* | **TONE IBE** |
| 4 | Where Is The Love | *Black Eyed Peas* | **TONE WERISLUV** |
| 5 | Ignition | *R. Kelly* | **TONE IGNI** |
| 6 | Unwell | *Matchbox 20* | **TONE UNWELL** |
| 7 | Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka | *Regine Velasquez* | **TONE UMUULAN** |
| 8 | Broken Vow | *Lara Fabian* | **TONE BROKEN** |
| 9 | Can't Lose You | *F4* | **TONE CANTLOSE** |
| 10 | Here We Are | *F4* | **TONE HEREWE** |
| 11 | Numb | *Linkin Park* | **TONE NUMB** |
| 12 | Thoia Thoing | *R. Kelly* | **TONE THOIA** |
| 13 | Build Me Up, Buttercup | *Sound Alike* | **TONE BUTTERCUP** |
| 14 | Get Busy | *Sean Paul* | **TONE GETBUSY** |
| 15 | Bliss | *Alice Peacock & John Mayer* | **TONE BLISS** |
| 16 | If You're Not The One | *Daniel Bedingfield* | **TONE IFYOURNOT** |
| 17 | Banal Na Aso | *Yano* | **TONE BANAL** |
| 18 | Paraiso | *Smokey Mountain* | **TONE PARAISO** |
| 18 | Faint | *Linkin Park* | **TONE FAINT** |
| 20 | We Can | *Lee-Ann Rimes* | **TONE WECAN** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Last High | *Dandy Warhols* | **TONE LASTH** |
| Mr Suave Ver. 2 | *Parokya Ni Edgar* | **TONE MRSUAVE2** |
| I Will Love Again | *Lara Fabian* | **TONE LOVEAGN** |
| What Dreams Are Made Of | *Hilary Duff* | **TONE WHATDREAMS** |
| Thoia Thoing | *R. Kelly* | **TONE THOIA** |
| Frontin | *Pharrel And JayZ* | **TONE FRONTIN** |
| On A High | *Duncan Sheik* | **TONE ONAHIGH** |
| The Loneliest Person I Know | *Splender* | **TONE LONELIEST** |
| Bigger Than My Body | *John Mayer* | **TONE BIGGER** |
| Banal Na Aso | *Yano* | **TONE BANAL** |

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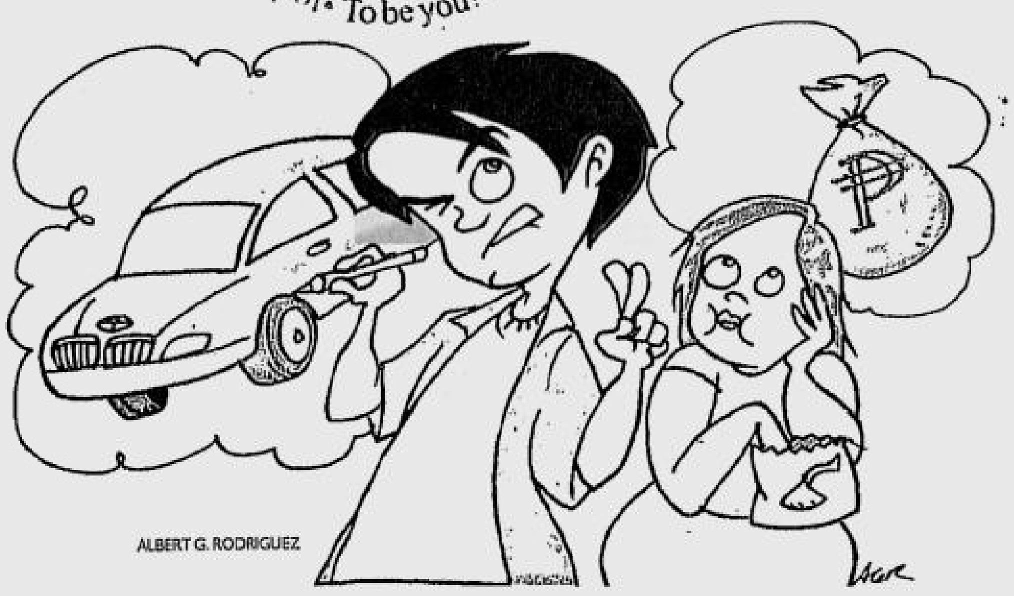


ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

# Kisses can be worth P5M

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
*2bU! Correspondent*

BUYING your favorite Hershey's Kisses and Nuggets has now become exciting with the Hershey's Drive or Dive for Cash Promo.

With every P150 worth of Hershey's Kisses and/or Nuggets, you get a chance to win either a brand new BMW X5 or P5 million. Simply present your receipt or proof of purchase at the Hershey's booth to play during the promo period. Only purchases from local retailers can be entered. Duty Free buys are not eligible.

After validating the proof of purchase, the Hershey's promo representative will give you a coupon to fill up. You also write what you think is the seven-digit vault combination.

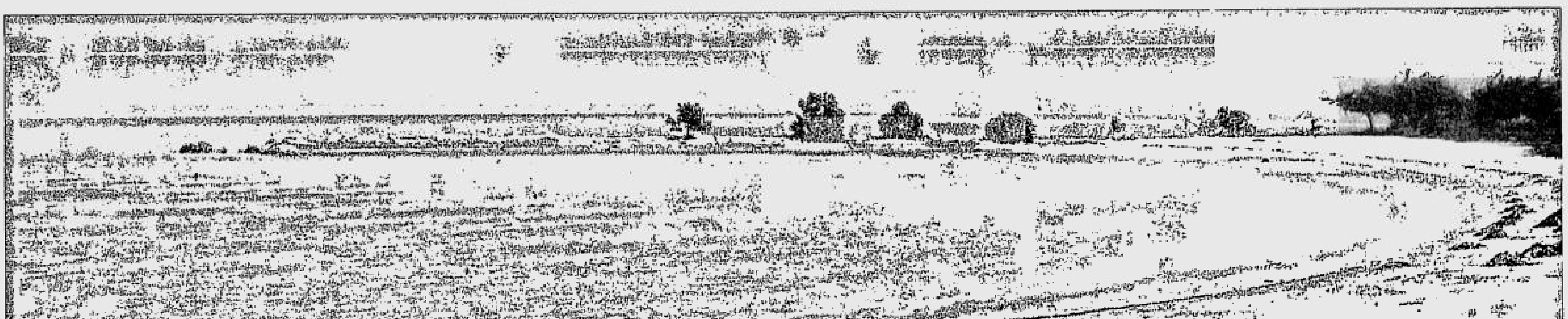
The promo people will give instructions and assist you in trying your seven-digit combination on the vault. If you guessed the correct combination, the vault will open and you can instantly choose what prize to bring home.

The use of a vault is a very exciting and new concept in Asia. It also cuts short the agony of waiting as you can instantly find out if you won or not. No stubs to keep. No grand raffle draw to wait for. Of course, disappointment comes just as quickly. I found out I lost in two seconds flat.

The Hershey's vault is at the company's promo and selling booths in key malls in Metro Manila. Promo is ongoing at Robinsons Galleria until Oct. 16. The rest of the schedule is: Alabang Town Center, Oct. 20-26; Ayala Center-Glorietta 2, Oct. 27-31; SM Megamall, Nov. 1-5; Robinsons Place Manila, Nov. 6-12; SM North Edsa, Nov. 13-19; SM Megamall, Nov. 20-26; and Ayala Center-Glorietta 2, Dec. 15-23.

# *Mandy Moore in Manila!*

YOU read it here at 2bU! first—and anyone who witnessed correspondent Maui Reyes jump up and down like anything. The über talented movie star/pop princess/model Mandy Moore will be coming to Manila for a major concert! Details to follow soon, so start learning those Mandy songs and don't forget to pick up her new album, "Coverage"!



**Has your org done anything to help the environment lately?**
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JOHN Mayer with Stef Ching and [illegible] Go, winners of the Wrangler contest on dwTM radio

ANY GIVEN fans' day: Em Lingao, head of marketing for Wrangler; Roslyn Reyes, head of marketing for Sony Music; John Mayer, Innah Viray, Liz Franco, 99.5 RT DJ; Erika Tatad, Adrian Ramos and Mitos de Guzman

# In wonderland with John Mayer

From page E1

like "Heavier Things" to me.

**Your first single is "Bigger Than My Body," and a lot of people say that it has a different edge to it. Is that something we can expect from the album?**

Yeah, well it think the tones on the album are different, but I don't think that it's edgy in the sense that… "What is this?!" It's edgier in the sense that, it's more rock, it's more grownup-sounding, but then again I'm probably a more grownup-sounding person than I was before.

**You did a collaboration with Alice Peacock in the song "Bliss." How did that come about?**

Well, Alice and I are both under Wea Records and Gregg Latterman of Wea Records sent me the CD and asked if I had any interest in playing guitar on it. I heard it and I didn't have any interest in playing on it 'cause I didn't think there was a lot of room for it, but I said I'd love to sing on it. I love the chorus so he said sure, sing on the record. That's the only other record that I've sung on other than my own. It's pretty cool!

**Have you thought of doing any other collaborations?**

I would just love to work with Chad and Pharrel of the Neptunes. I'm sure I'll be doing something with Justin Timberlake at some point. I like a lot people's music. It's just that most people's music, I don't think I can help. I feel like it would be a mess for me to be on it, but there's a couple of styles of music I think I can add something to.

**You grew up on the blues, how much of that comes into your records? Will we be hearing more of that on this new album?**

I think there's more of that approach. There's no actual literal blues music on the album, but it's definitely let in more, as a color on the tones of the album.

**You're currently on tour with the Counting Crows and it's been a long run. Do you guys actually sit down and say, this is how we're going to do the show?**

It's different every night. But that's the kinda commitment you make. Sometimes you make that commitment and you find that you've written a set really, really well, but you do two nights in one place and you think, man, I'd love to do this same set tomorrow but you can't. You have to kinda like change it up.

**How is it like having fans? I got a taste of it earlier and it's mind-boggling to think of how many people are into your music.**

Well, most of them, actually all of them, are really, really cool. There's not much of a personality change that I go through when I meet my fans, but I give them a lot of credit… they should be respected. Sometimes people talk to me about their fans, other artists, DJ's and stuff. And they would ask, so the women must be willing to do anything for you? I really wouldn't do anything. I mean, these are smart women. I have really smart fans. I don't think it's any business of mine to treat them like they're stupid.

**Are you your biggest critic?**

Sure, absolutely! We should all be our biggest critics. I don't know how much of a perfectionist I am 'cause I'm pretty good at seeing things for what they are but absolutely. I do things every night that nobody would ever notice.

**You have a lot of fans in the Philippines. Would it be possible to see you perform there anytime soon?**

I'd love to come by. I think it's a matter of scheduling, you know, conflicts and stuff but I would love to. I have a feeling that I'll be there pretty soon.

**We're gonna keep our fingers crossed.**

Thank you. Me too.

JOHN Mayer with DJ Miles of Magic 89.9

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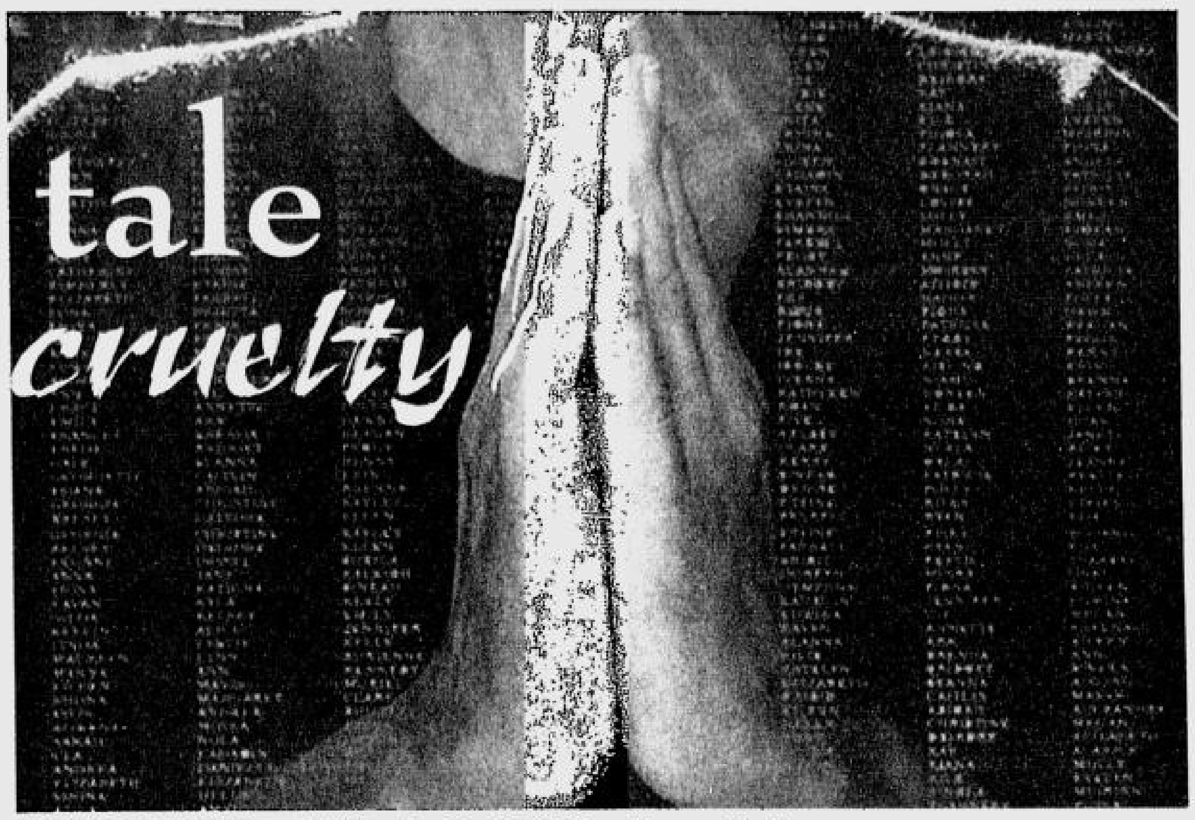
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3051 Series of 2003

## 'THE MAGDALENE SISTERS'

# A *disturbing* tale of '*conventional*' *cruelty*



"THE MAGDALENE Sisters?" "Attack of the Hellish Nuns" is more like it.

**By Catherine Young**
*2bU! Correspondent*

MEET Margaret, Rose and Bernadette—three young girls living in the stringent society of 1960's Ireland. Margaret, the eldest sister in her family, gets raped by a cousin during a wedding. Rose is a young unwed mother who has to give up her son for adoption. Bernadette is a beautiful sultry temptress who gets caught flirting with the boys. Three different women with the same fate: to join the convent of the Magdalene Sisters so that they can atone for their "sins."

Thus sets the premise of "The Magdalene Sisters," a passionate and disturbing tale of institutional cruelty. Written and directed by Peter Mullan, this award-winning movie is a true story of how three girls were able to emancipate themselves from the little-known yet brutal world of the Irish convents. In these cloisters, women are beaten and humiliated by sisters with a twisted sense of what penance is.

It is difficult to watch this movie and not feel like you've just been kicked in the head. Margaret (Anne-Marie Duff) is viewed to have ruined her family's honor and gets sent to the convent instead of her perverse cousin who has committed the crime. Rose (Dorothy Duffy) is disowned by her family and never gets to see her child again. Bernadette's (Nora-Jane Noone) feistiness is soon quelled after a failed escape from the institution.

### Transgressions

The girls are made to earn money for the Magdalene Sisters mainly by doing laundry the whole day. Without any social contact permitted, the girls get beaten or their hair shaved off when they try to escape or when they disobey the sisters' rules. One shocking scene is when the sisters line up their "prisoners," make them strip naked and poke fun at their bodies. Sexual abuse by the convent's priest is also addressed by the movie, but what is more horrifying is how the sisters choose to ignore it. The gravity of the women's "transgressions" makes you wonder how the nuns could see their own doings as an act of God.

Nora-Jane Noone gives a truly commendable performance. Her resemblance to Rachel Weisz and her spirited take on the strong-willed Bernadette are perhaps the icing on a movie that is definitely worth your money.

Geraldine McEwan is also very credible as Sister Bridget, the head of the Magdalene Sisters. With her high-pitched grating voice and the evil schoolmarm look, she's probably the person to dress up as this Halloween. You will scare more people that way.

### Redemption

In spite of the harrowing scenes in this movie, the audience won't come out of it depressed. By the end of the movie, there is a redeeming scene where the protagonists go on a rampage against the nuns after finally realizing that they cannot spend their lives rotting within those four walls. Although the audience may be a little disappointed at how the villains are left unpunished, they will be appeased to know that the last "laundry convents" were closed in 1996.

In spite of how much the film grips its audience, I wonder how much impact it will have on Filipinos, given our long history of colonial rule where priests were known to abuse their power.

### Relevance

Some may find "The Magdalene Sisters" less impressive, given the common knowledge of blatant sexual abuse, corruption and blood crimes of the Spanish friars. Even the fact that this was happening in the 21st century may not be enough to recruit audiences, especially with the recent controversies surrounding the Catholic Church. These days "The Magdalene Sisters" may be less horrifying in comparison with Pinoy films like "Jose Rizal" or "Oro Plata Mata" where people were tortured, raped and murdered—and not necessarily in that order.

But is the movie relevant? I believe so. Now that we are questioning what we've followed so blindly years before, a film that tries to raise awareness in such a fierce and masterful way is laudable. This is a movie that questions not the Catholic faith, but the methods by which God's "agents" try to propagate it and the ignorance with which society chooses to deal with them. Mullan succeeds in heightening our indignation at how these atrocities were committed by women against women.

*E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com*

NORA-JANE Noone as the flirty Bernadette

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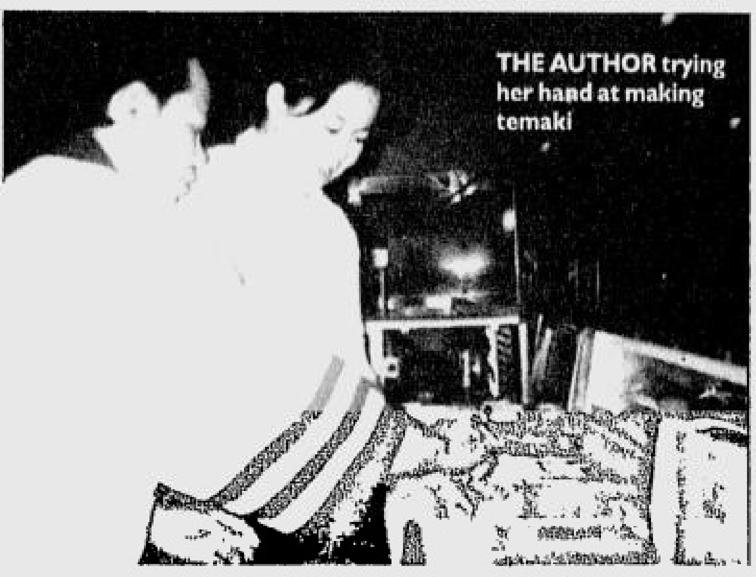
Lessons for a one-day Japanese chef: Only right-handers qualify, and no, you can't make sushi while listening to hard rock


**THE AUTHOR** trying her hand at making temaki

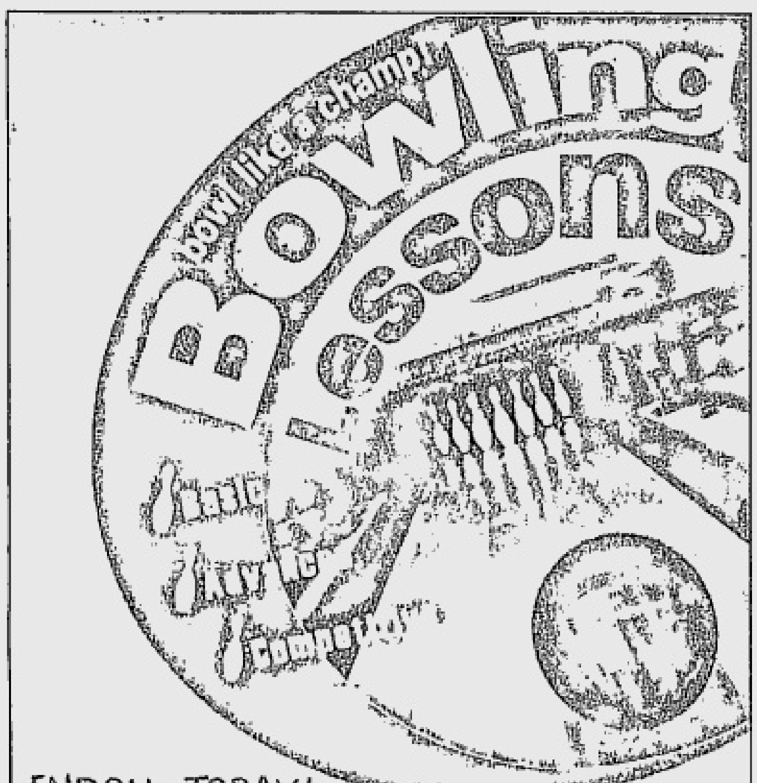
## TEMPORARILY YOURS

# Frying N

**By Catherine Young**
*2bU! Correspondent*

HUMANS, I believe, are born with a primitive tendency toward amnesia. To survive in the world, we forget the past and move on to newer things that may increase our dominion over the world, or at least help us keep up with our fellow primates.

FRYING/F2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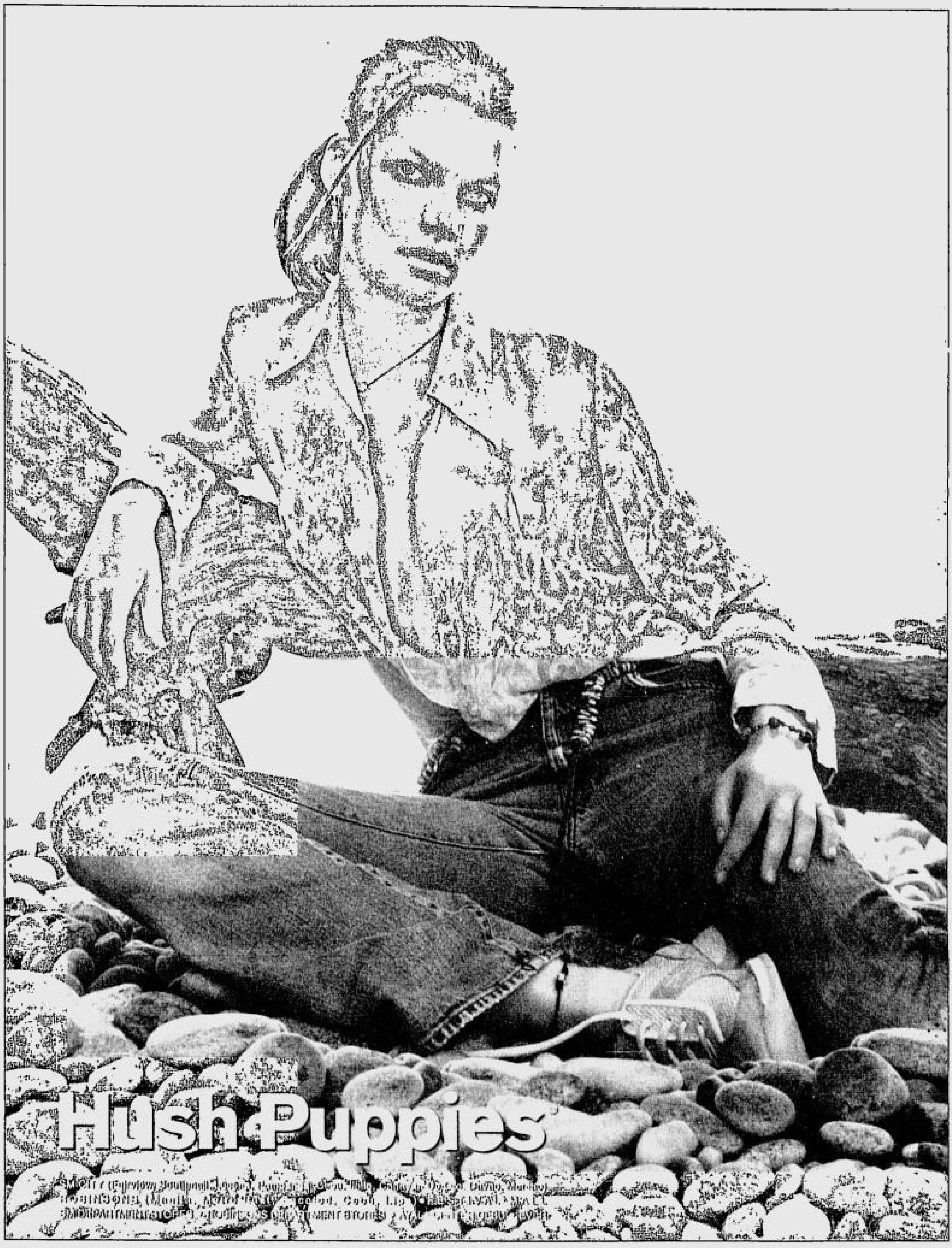
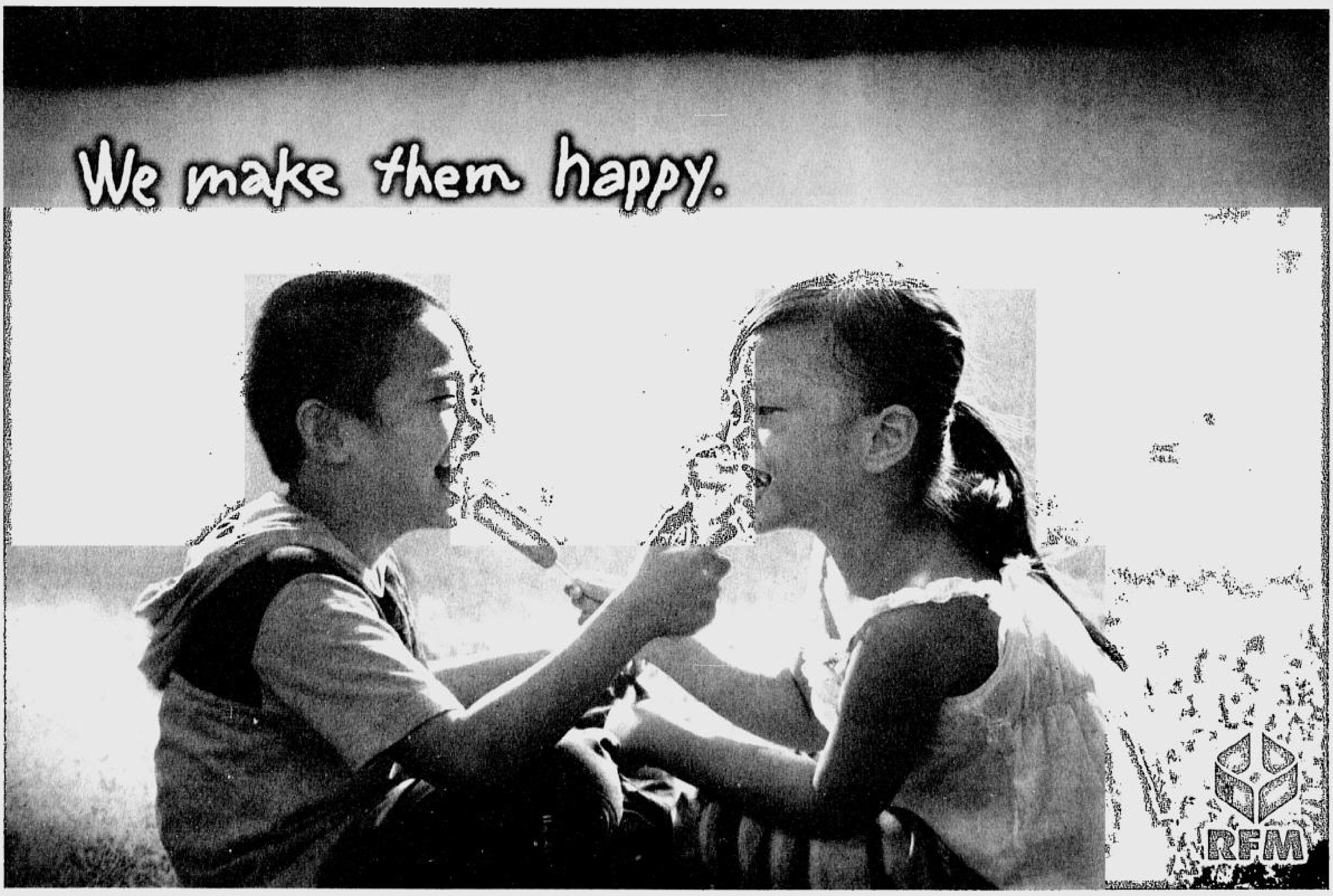




# Frying Nemo

From page F1

FEMINIST pride: I was going to be Saisaki's first female sushi chef, even if only for a day—and I wasn't about to let my sistahs down.

We store our forgotten memories in museums out of guilt, and imbibe new practices that will ensure our self-preservation.

This is so in today's westernized Asia, where it has become increasingly challenging for countries to preserve their cultural identity. Young generations tend to prefer convenience over tradition, modernization over nostalgia. In struggling to keep up with the rest of the world, old practices are brushed off like yesterday's dandruff, to be replaced with foreign ones.

Japan, however, is one of those who are successfully leading the global community without sacrificing culture.

When we think of Japan, we are able to dichotomize her traditional and modern aspects. Twenty first century Japan is not just synonymous with animé and Aibo; rather, kimonos and tatami mats are still very much present in society. The romance of "old Japan" is just as significant as "pop Japan."

## Band-aids and guillotines

Undeniably, one of the things Japan is most known for is its food. And in the realm of gastronomy, no dish is more identified with the country than sushi. Sticks of delicate crab or guillotined fish are wrapped in a band-aid of salty seaweed, and prepared in pretty much the same way it's been done for centuries.

Or so I was told during my adventure for the week, as I gamely took on the guise of a sushi chef in Saisaki—which, interestingly, means "Good beginnings never end."

For restaurant-goers, sushi has become a general term that includes the seaweed-and-rice concoctions and the raw fish. Sashimi, which consists of just the raw fish, is sometimes used interchangeably with the term sushi. Nevertheless, both use a similar method of preparation, as I was soon to find out.

Many emotions went through me as I was briefed on my assignment. Fear: I can lose a finger with the extremely sharp sushi knife. In fact, one of the chefs had an accident not too long ago. Eagerness: I was going to learn something new. Relief: I had put up my hair with chopsticks in an attempt to dress for the occasion, since they had no uniform for a female sushi chef.

And feminist pride too: I was going to be their first female sushi chef, as the Japanese believe girls should be prevented from sushi-making. *"Mainit daw ang mga kamay ng mga babae,"* said Sir Butch Aquino III, a 15-year veteran in the business and one of my bosses for the day.

## Fearless

The sushi chef must be fearless and right-handed. (Yup, lefties aren't allowed, sorry.) So I learned from Sir Butch as he proceeded to do his work in his green-trimmed white *gi*.

He rolled. He sliced. He shaped temaki into little ice-cream cones. He placed plastic grass and leaf-shaped wasabi on the plate. He presented it with the flourish of a seasoned magician.

Presentation, indeed, was everything.

Sir Butch set me to work on making California maki. First, 100 grams of vinegar rice was spread on a bamboo mat. Next, a sheet of seaweed was placed on top. A dollop of mayonnaise was then added, followed by sticks of mango and crab. The bamboo mat was carefully and firmly rolled, forming the sushi's circular shape. The roll was smothered with orange-colored shrimp eggs.

The difficult part was the slicing, as it had to be one smooth cut instead of a sawing motion. Slice and glide, I was told. I went slower than I would have liked, for fear of slicing a finger and (horrors!) serving it to innocent diners.

The next dish I had to prepare was California temaki. Vinegar rice, mayo, mango and crab were again layered on the seaweed, then wrapped into the shape of a little green ice cream cone and placed on its own rack. No slicing was involved, so chalk this up as my favorite Japanese dish to prepare.

My last task for the sushi job involved fish. Think "Finding Nemo" without the heads. Only the freshest fish are used, as they are to be eaten raw. Sir Butch said raw fish promotes good health by de-clogging your veins.

At home, when feeling sufficiently prosperous, use the species that fine-dining restaurants like Saisaki use: tuna, Norwegian salmon and lapu-lapu, to name a few.

I sliced the slippery slab of flesh in front of me and presented it on a plate with plastic grass. A spoonful of wasabi was also shaped into a leaf and added as a garnish.

It was then that I finally realized why Japanese cooking is often considered an art. The plate of food appeared like a painting; patches of oranges, greens and yellows were like strokes of a paintbrush. The dish was arranged in such a way as to mimic nature, which explained the garnish.

The food did not look bad at all, if I may say so. I surveyed my companions' faces as we ate our creations. (Since this was the first time I made sushi, I decided I was not in good conscience going to serve it to well-paying customers.)

"Well?" I demanded, hoping I did not screw up my first attempt. Thankfully, my creations were edible, and I, the first-time sushi eater, finally understood the fuss about authentic Japanese food.

It's all about presentation, the marriage of different flavors, and the atmosphere provided by your friendly geisha food server whose outfit I wished to borrow.

The process itself was like a cleansing ritual that required quiet focus. You can't make sushi while listening to hard rock.

## Kitchen duty

But my job was only half done. From the sushi bar, I was ushered into the kitchen where I would be making tempura and Saisaki steak.

Sir Jo Tatad, the head cook in the kitchen, introduced me to the tempura pans that were literally big enough to cook a person in. Now, instead of the fear of blood flow, my concern shifted to the fear of getting burned.

This time, instead of experiencing the quiet, methodical ritual of sushi preparation, I found the entertaining part of Japanese cooking. Tossing the batter-soaked shrimp into the vat of boiling oil was like feeding fish to hungry crocodiles; you had to be careful or the oil will spatter and burn you.

For cooking the steak, utensils they called paletas were used to turn the meat over. Experienced cooks like Sir Jo flipped the paletas like a drummer would his drumsticks. Separated from the restaurant patrons by a sheet of glass, he could put on a show for them to enjoy.

As for me, I was content to work in the manner of an apprentice chef—slow and steady.

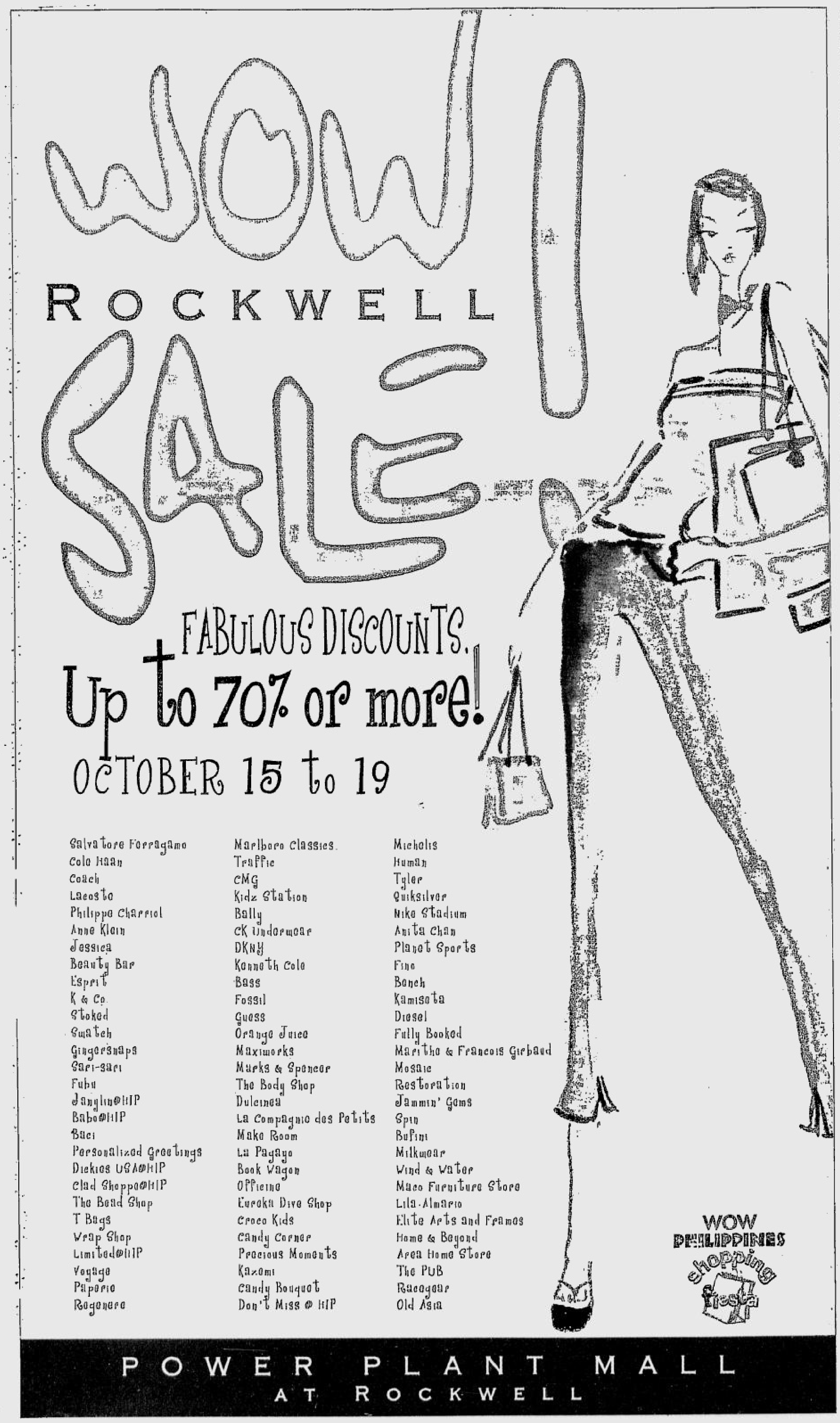
While we were tasting the meal, I stood up and observed the patrons while sucking on my chopsticks. As it was mid-afternoon, customers were few. But those that were there seem to know the value of quiet in a Japanese restaurant.

Perhaps this is why we still identify Japan with traditional practices; in the deafening noise and the extreme artificiality of the urban jungle, we choose to preserve a world that has escaped all that.

Maybe I'll end up with my own sushi bar someday. But the knives have definitely got to go.

*Thank you to Saisaki Megamall, Cecile Riveral, Bernadeth Berlandino and Sahlee Pastoral.*

*E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com*



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HEART Evangelista

The 18-year-old teen star is the new endorser of Japan's oldest and No. 1 beef bowl chain

# Yoshinoya gets a Heart

**By Niño Mark M. Sablan**
*2bU! Correspondent*

AS A TV actress, MYX VJ, movie starlet and more recently a recording artist, Heart Evangelista's heart may be beating for a lot of passions, but when it comes to Japanese food, her tummy craves only for Yoshinoya.

The 18-year-old teen star is the new endorser of Japan's oldest and No. 1 beef bowl chain. The screening process for the official endorser may have been long and tedious, but Heart emerged as the perfect candidate, and it's more than just because of her oriental looks.

Yoshinoya marketing manager Raffy Lantin relates that Heart's "young, active and wholesome image is consistent with the image of the restaurant chain." And with Heart's fun, perky and energetic aura, her appeal definitely crosses age and market boundaries.

At a presscon at the Yoshinoya Park Square 1 branch in Ayala Center, Makati, on Oct. 9, Heart answered questions from the press, but not before breaking her chopsticks and digging into a beef bowl first.

When asked about what she especially likes about Yoshinoya, Heart specified how the food is "more original" than others. Yoshinoya, after all, is about authentic Japanese food cooked-to-order with only the choicest ingredients, thus guaranteeing that the food is served hot and fresh all the time.

Lantin also pointed out how the recipe for the gyudon or beef bowl, which is the store's most popular offering, has remained unchanged for over a hundred years.

Heart's favorites are the beef and chicken bowls even if "*medyo marami yung* rice," which is not entirely a bad thing, especially for the hungry ones. She also loves and always orders the green tea for its refreshing taste and color.

Another thing she has instantly come to adore is the life-size standee of herself, which makes her look so tall and Japanese, and reminds her of—of all things—the Taiwanese hit "Meteor Garden."

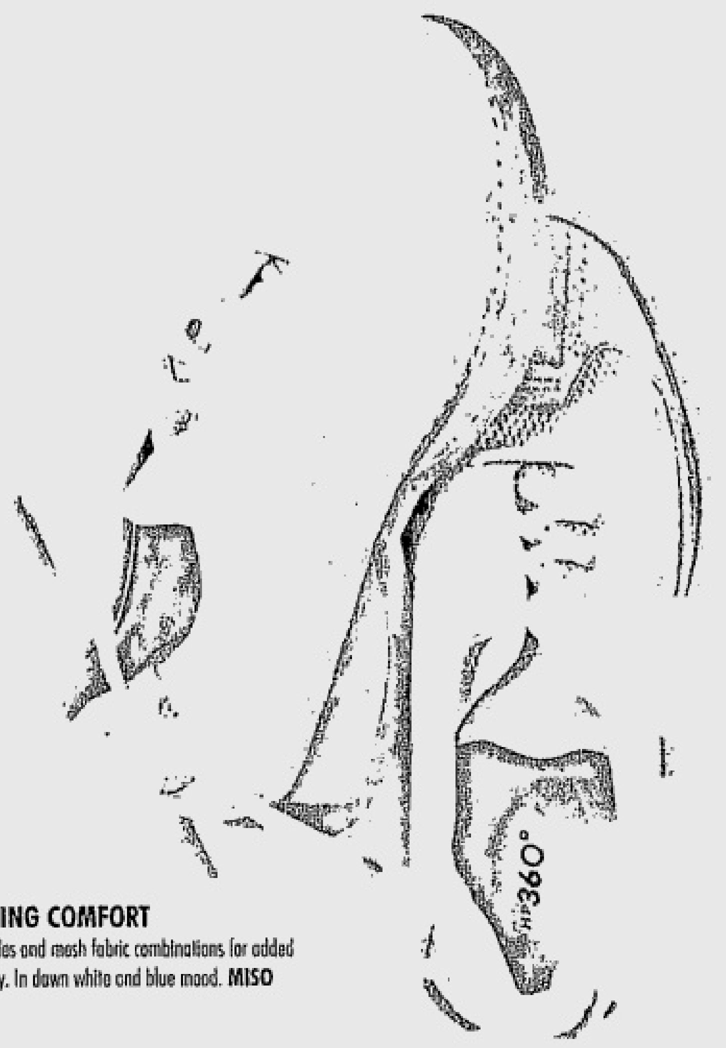
With all the promotions she will be doing for Yoshinoya, Heart's sked is sure to go crazy.

Meanwhile, she's currently introducing relatives and friends to the place. She has been bringing the family to Yoshinoya for a while now, and has even given John Prats some gift certificates.

With fast and filling food plus a Heart standee to welcome you, a hearty meal is always sure to be had at Yoshinoya.

*Yoshinoya branches are found in SM Southmall in Las Piñas, Park Square 1 in Ayala Center, Makati; SM Bicutan and SM Megamall.*

**BEEF BOWL.** Juicy beef slices cooked in a savory blend of herbs and spices and served over a bed of steaming rice make up Yoshinoya's famous rice bowl.



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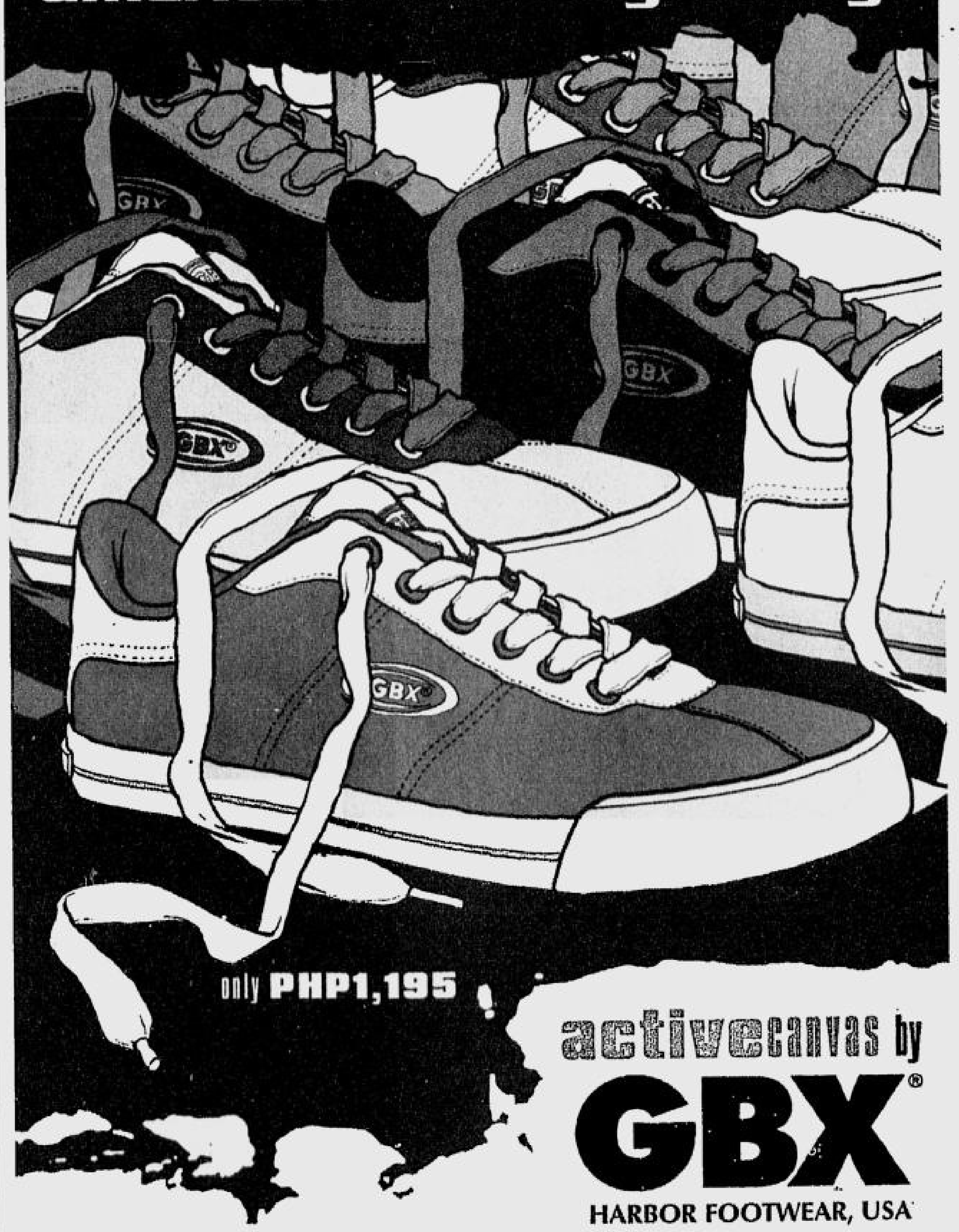

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Mango Orange,
Lemon Iced Tea,
Calamansi with Honey
Reg. P7.95
P7.50 200 ml.
Mango
Reg. P8.95
P8.50 .00 ml
Save 5%

**Del Monte**
202 Juice Drink
Orange Burst
Reg. P16.75
P15.75 240 ml.
Pineapple Crush,
Lychee Twist
Reg. P14.65
P13.75 240 ml.
Mango Delight
Reg. P18.50
P17.50 240 ml
Save 5%
Save 6%

**Queen's Sweeties**
Cookies
Reg. P99.50
P94.50
200 gms
Save 5%

**Nestlé**
Yogurt Drink
Mango, Strawberry,
Banana Apple
Reg. P18.50
P17.50 200 ml.
Oct 16 - Oct 30, 2003
Save 5%

**Absolute**
Distilled Water
Reg. P10.40
P9.75 500 ml.
Reg. P48.25
P45.50 5000 ml.
Save 5%
Save 6%

**Pringles**
Salt & Vinegar,
Sweet Mequite BBQ
Reg. P71.50
P67.95 163 gms.
Save 4%

**Arluy**
Cookies
Chispas 35 Chocolate
w/ Hazelnut
Reg. P75.00
P71.25 200 gms
Chispac 37 Chocolate
Reg. P72.50
P68.90 225 gms.
Brownie Chocolate,
Brownie Apple Strudel
Reg. P78.00
P74.10 200 gms
Save 4%
Save 5%

**Twizzle Bar**
Reg. P24.00
P22.80
Save 5%

**Sucerè**
Milk Chocolates
Soccer Balls
Reg. P13.75
P13.10
4 gms.
Incrediball,
Dyno Eggs
Reg. P14.50
P13.80
4.5 gms.
Bricks
Reg. P13.75
P13.10
4.4 gms.
Save 4%

**Del Monte**
Catsup
Regular, Sweet Blend
Reg. P19.50
P18.55 340 gms.
Extra Rich
Reg. P19.75
P18.75 340 gms
Banana
Reg. P19.40
P18.45 340 gms
Save 4%
Save 5%

**Betadine**
Feminine Wash
Antiseptic Cleanser
Reg. P95.00
P91.10 50 ml.
Reg. P161.75
P156.40 100 ml
Save 3%
Save 4%

**Extra**
Bathroom Tissue
2 Ply
Reg. P78.00
P74.80
9 rolls
Save 4%

**Downy**
Fabric Softener
Sunrise Fresh, Ocean Fresh
Reg. P150.00
P139.15
Save 7%

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4312, Series of 2003

## TRICK N' TREATS

Just shop at Rustan Supermarkets and get a chance to join the party. See banners and flyers for details.

Oct. 8 - 24, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4248, Series of 2003

Makati 898-9275 | Cubao 911-2530 | Shangri-La Plaza 633-4423 | Harrison Plaza 521-8330 | Rockwell 898-1270 | San Antonio, Forbes Park 817-9327 | Boni 532-5881
Ali Mall 912-6125 | Farmers Plaza 911-1691 | Alabang 807-1996 | Fairview 430-8095 | Marikina 941-0979 | Star Mall 722-2714 | Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 541-1615
Taytay 665-2110 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3119 | Mercedes, Pasig 747-9272 | EDSA-Taft 833-6560 | Zabarte 961-4600 | Magallanes 852-8090

LIFESTYLE

2bU! to be you • to be young • to be you! • To be you!

# Best Seat in the house

I've known these guys for years, but after covering 18 games all in all for FEU this season, I got to know them even better—and there was always something new to discover

THE TAMS celebrating their victory and the birthdays of players RJ Rizada, Jay Sierra and Gerard Jores in Boracay

**By Jamela Alindogan**
*Contributor*

IT was the fourth quarter timeout and, being the courtside reporter for the Far Eastern University, I was trying to squeeze into the huddle to get closer to coach Koy Banal as he gave instructions to the team. It was Game 2 of the UAAP Ateneo-FEU finals, and I had butterflies in my stomach. It was hard trying to listen to the huddle when behind you were almost 10,000 people screaming their hearts out. Yet I understood perfectly what Coach Koy was trying to impart, and that was to focus and to finish the game just like the biblical story of David and Goliath.

In the last two minutes of the ball game, Mark Isip was in tears as he hugged his fellow teammates—it was clear that FEU was going to be the champion.

I was in a daze. Our director told me to prepare questions for the post-game interview and I was having a hard time concentrating. As I stood in front of the camera, holding the questionnaires, I was shaking. My director told me to relax. It was going to be my first-ever championship interview.

Cesar Catli was the first in line. He was sweating profusely, and to keep him still I tried to hold his arm but, yikes, I accidentally touched his armpit instead!

The lights went on. My mind whirling, I asked him about what it was that won them the championship. He put his sweaty arm around me and was about to answer when four other players came out of nowhere! This was live TV, and I was suddenly surrounded by players who kept hugging me. I tried to keep them from grabbing the microphone while they were shouting, "*Nanalo kami dahil kami ang may pinakamalaking puso!*" (We won because we have the biggest heart!)

## Passion

I've known these guys for years, especially the seniors. Even in my freshman year at Far Eastern University, we would go out together as a group. This year I got to know them even better. I covered 18 games all in all for FEU. And in every single game, there was always something new to discover.

Coach Koy is very motivational. He's been like a dad to me. Two years ago, when I was going through a bad time he told me something that really made an impact on me. He said that if you are in a difficult situation, always remember that passion can keep you going. Never give up, he said.

Well, he lived by his words. He had been in past championships and lost but never gave up. He tasted his first championship title all because of the hard work and dedication that he has given to the FEU Tamaraws for four

BEST/G3

onstage 2nyt

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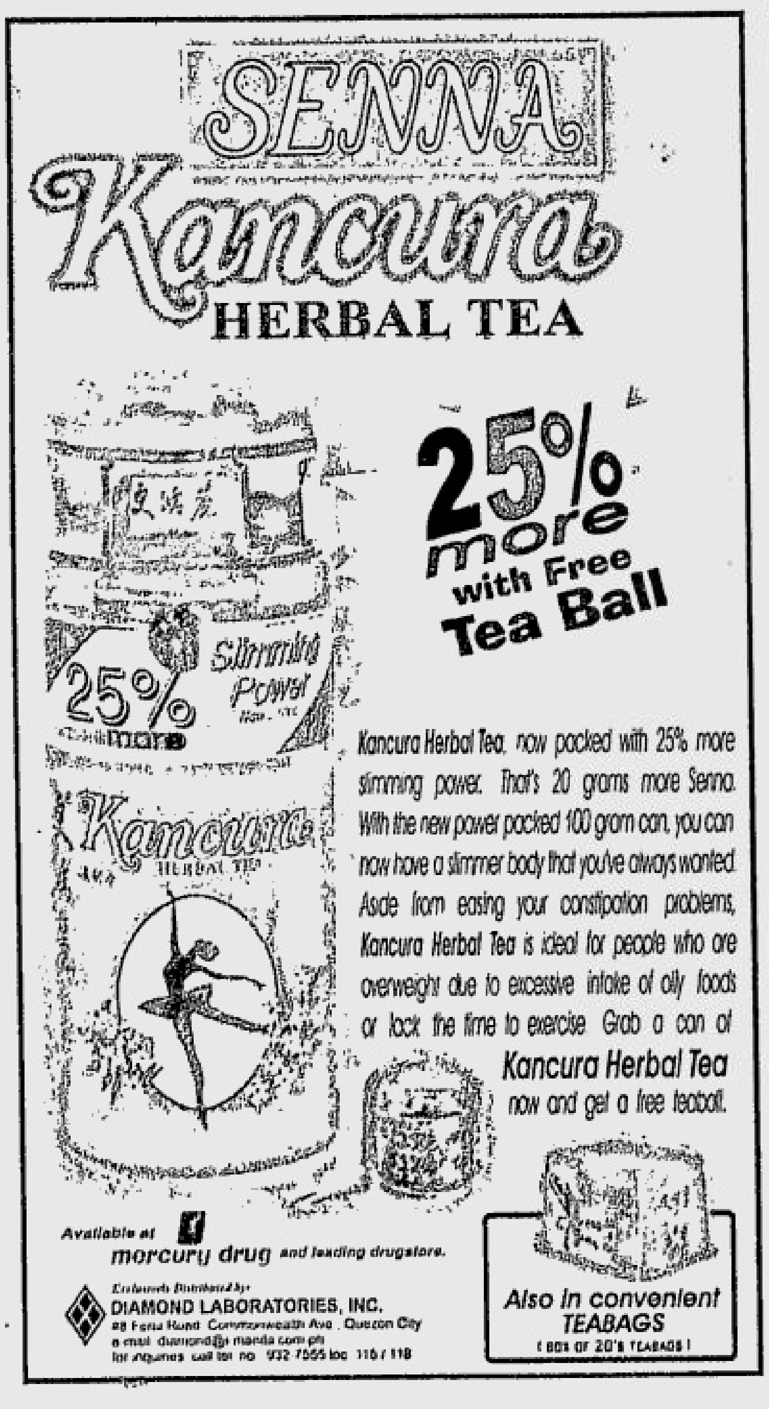

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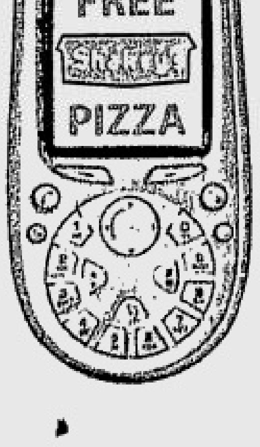

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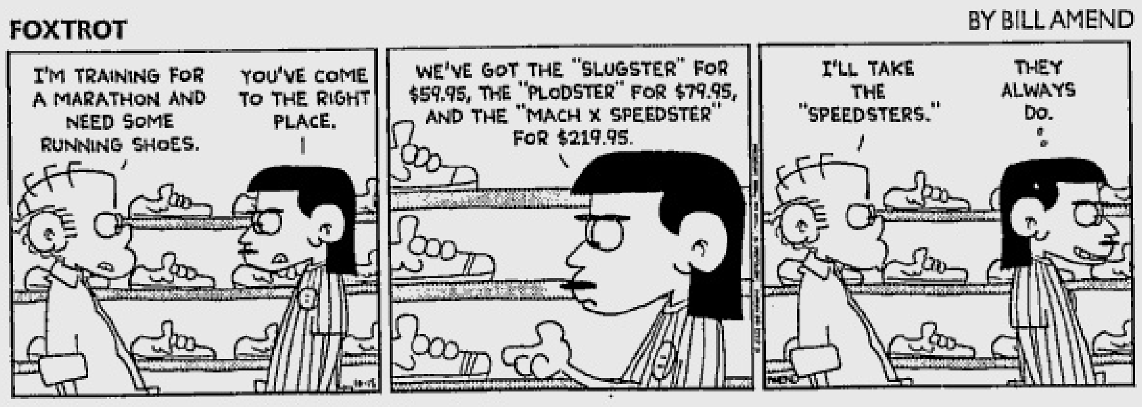
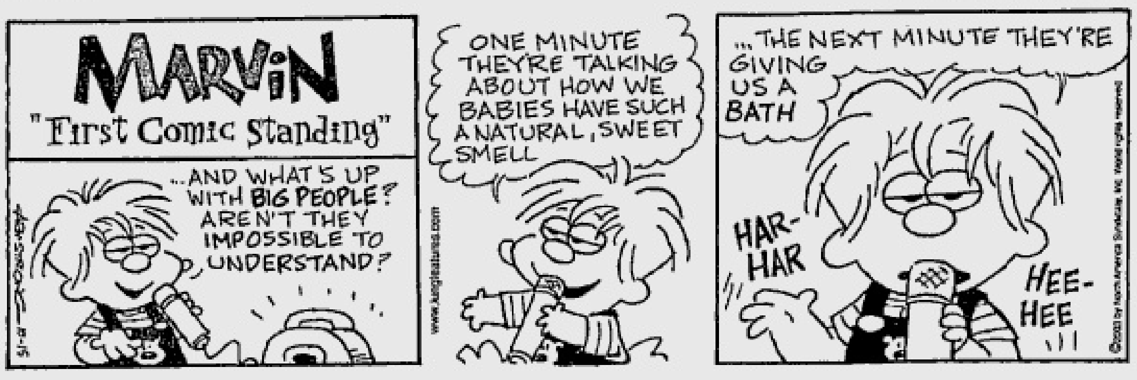
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'M TRAINING FOR A MARATHON AND NEED SOME RUNNING SHOES.
YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
WE'VE GOT THE "SLUGSTER" FOR $59.95, THE "PLODSTER" FOR $79.95, AND THE "MACH X SPEEDSTER" FOR $219.95.
I'LL TAKE THE "SPEEDSTERS."
THEY ALWAYS DO.

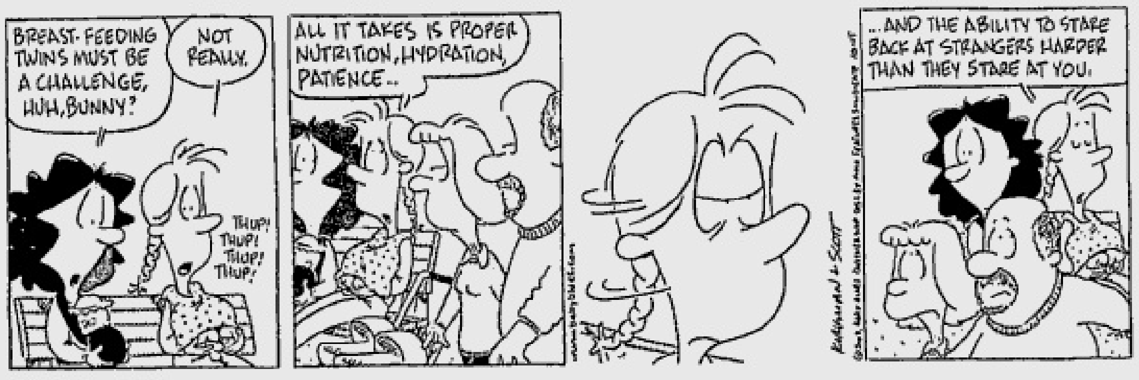
### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN
"First Comic Standing"
...AND WHAT'S UP WITH BIG PEOPLE? AREN'T THEY IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND?
ONE MINUTE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE BABIES HAVE SUCH A NATURAL, SWEET SMELL
...THE NEXT MINUTE THEY'RE GIVING US A BATH
HAR-HAR
HEE-HEE

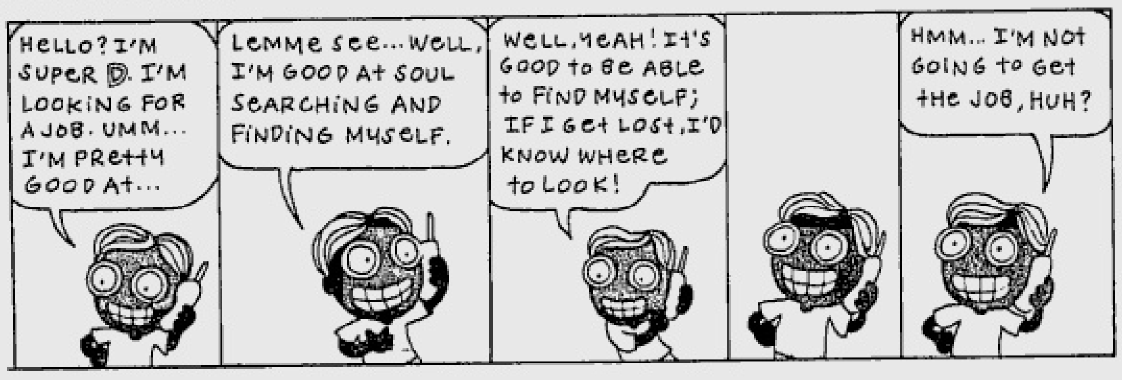
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BREAST-FEEDING TWINS MUST BE A CHALLENGE, HUH, BUNNY?
NOT REALLY.
THUP! THUP! THUP! THUP!
ALL IT TAKES IS PROPER NUTRITION, HYDRATION, PATIENCE...
...AND THE ABILITY TO STARE BACK AT STRANGERS HARDER THAN THEY STARE AT YOU.

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HELLO? I'M SUPER D. I'M LOOKING FOR A JOB. UMM... I'M PRETTY GOOD AT...
LEMME SEE... WELL, I'M GOOD AT SOUL SEARCHING AND FINDING MYSELF.
WELL, YEAH! IT'S GOOD TO BE ABLE TO FIND MYSELF; IF I GET LOST, I'D KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!
HMM... I'M NOT GOING TO GET THE JOB, HUH?

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** Whether you mean to be or not, you're often provocative. Others have strong reactions to you. Partly, this is because you are strongly magnetic. You attract others to you, and you set your own style. You're knowledgeable because you value education. This year, interesting choices are presented to you. Choose wisely.

**Birthdate of:** Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Emeril Lagasse, TV chef; Tanva Roberts, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Conversations with others are much-improved today. Basically, this is because you're coming from a more positive space. (Everything is in the eye of the beholder.)

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Financial matters look better today. Communication with co-workers flows more easily now. You are busy juggling several balls in the air. Just keep hustling.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Try to squeeze in a little time for some fun today. Take a long coffee break. Meet someone for lunch. Playful activities with children are enjoyable.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You feel much better about whatever's happening at home now. Go forward with your ideas for making repairs or having important family discussions. Things will work out.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** This is a good day to schmooze with friends. It's also a good day for business and commerce. Your ability to sell, buy and negotiate is solid.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** This is a good day to talk to the boss or anyone important in your life (in terms of authority and influence). You're especially strong in discussions related to work or cash flow.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Go forward with plans related to publishing, the media, legal matters, travel and higher education. Others will endorse your ideas. You're like a hot knife cutting through butter!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You might have good ideas today about how to use the resources of others. You see a fair way of sharing duties, responsibilities and even joint property.

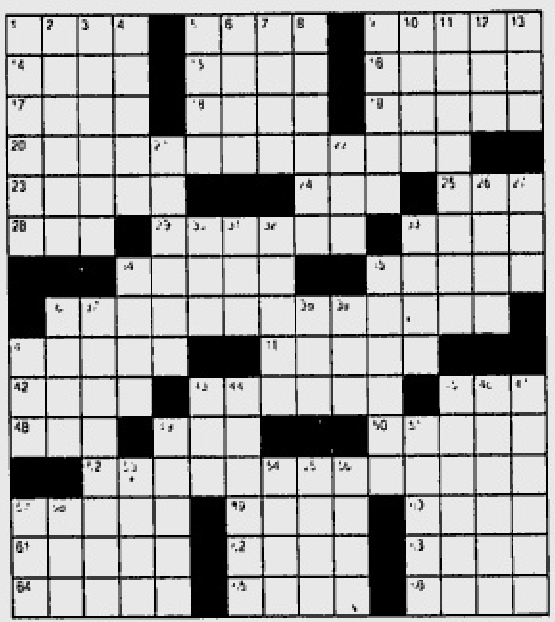
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Your ability to deal with the public is very good today. You enjoy meeting others now. Naturally, the friendlier you are, the friendlier others are as well. It always works that way!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Don't be afraid to speak up at work today. You have good ideas. Others should listen to you. The good news is, they probably will!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** This is a good day to make plans for a vacation or any kind of getaway or escape. It doesn't have to be big. You simply want a little adventure and relaxation.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Someone might help you decide or choose something for your home or a family member. You might even receive a gift. Be open to suggestions and generous offers from others today.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/15/03

ACROSS
1 Jettison
5 Scarborough event
9 Harmonize
14 Novelist Morrison
15 High point
16 Stair piece
17 MacGraw and Baba
18 Present packaging
19 Drain to the bottom
20 Babe
23 Disappointing car
24 Pose for a portrait
25 Young newt
28 Period of note
29 Stickups
33 Capital by a fjord
34 No-no
35 Lazy __
36 Babe
40 Wood-splitting tool
41 Railroad hub
42 Shocking swimmers?
43 Kickoff
45 "Annabel Lee" poet
48 New Haven scholar
49 Tankard contents
50 Success in spades
52 Babe
57 Monastery head
59 Highland hillside
60 Length times width
61 Dunne or Cara
62 Eye awnings?
63 Mountain pool
64 Less likely
65 Bridge seat
66 Word in a threat

DOWN
1 Paper fastener
2 More sacred
3 Mystery
4 Dancing spot
5 Doe's baby
6 Pasture piece
7 Mosque leader
8 Meal
9 Butler of "Grace Under Fire"
10 Pale green bean
11 Cafe order
12 Court divider
13 Thirsty
21 Start breathing
22 Bro's sibling
26 Linen fiber
27 Weight for freight
30 Recede
31 Chit letters
32 Weather balloon device
33 Drum out
34 Harbor boats
35 Saws wood
36 Orange cover
37 Off-the-cuff speaker
38 Hankering
39 Go __ (lose it)
40 Itsy-bitsy
43 Grand __ Opry
44 Small stone
45 More than one
46 Horse operas
47 Natural gas constituent
49 Fall bloomer
51 Jalopy
53 First-rate
54 Prima donna's number
55 Fellows
56 For fear that
57 Jordan's nickname
58 Bikini bandeau

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | U | S | T | ■ | W | A | S | T | E | ■ | E | G | A | D |
| A | N | T | A | ■ | E | X | T | R | A | ■ | M | E | R | E |
| L | I | A | R | ■ | B | L | A | I | R | ■ | T | I | T | I |
| ■ | O | C | T | O | B | E | R | C | L | A | S | S | I | C |
| U | N | C | A | P | ■ | D | R | E | S | S | ■ | H | E | E |
| S | M | A | R | T | S | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | S | A | R | S |
| E | A | T | ■ | ■ | O | F | F | E | R | E | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | N | O | W | O | R | L | D | S | E | R | I | E | S | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | C | T | U | A | T | E | ■ | ■ | V | A | L |
| S | N | A | F | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | S | A | R | A | P | E |
| H | A | M | ■ | L | E | W | I | S | ■ | N | A | C | H | O |
| A | M | E | R | I | C | A | N | L | E | A | G | U | E | ■ |
| S | E | L | A | ■ | L | U | A | U | S | ■ | M | A | A | M |
| T | R | I | M | ■ | A | G | N | E | S | ■ | F | T | D | S |
| A | S | A | P | ■ | T | H | E | S | E | ■ | N | E | S | T |

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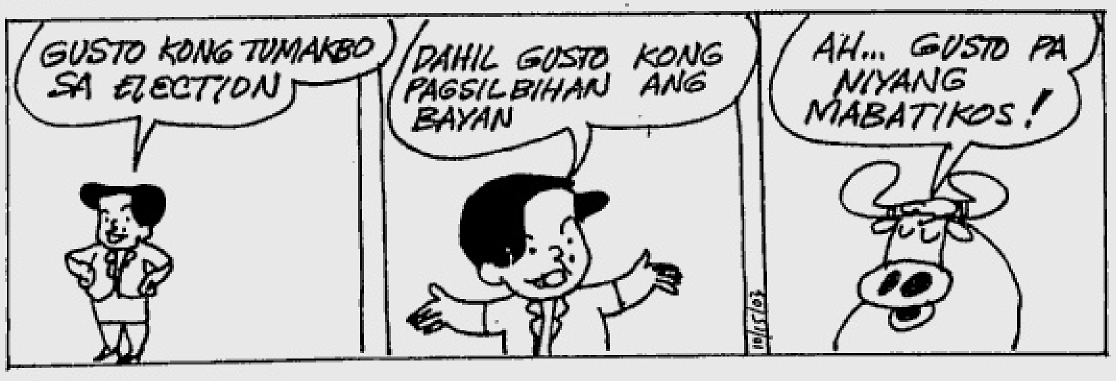
10/15/03

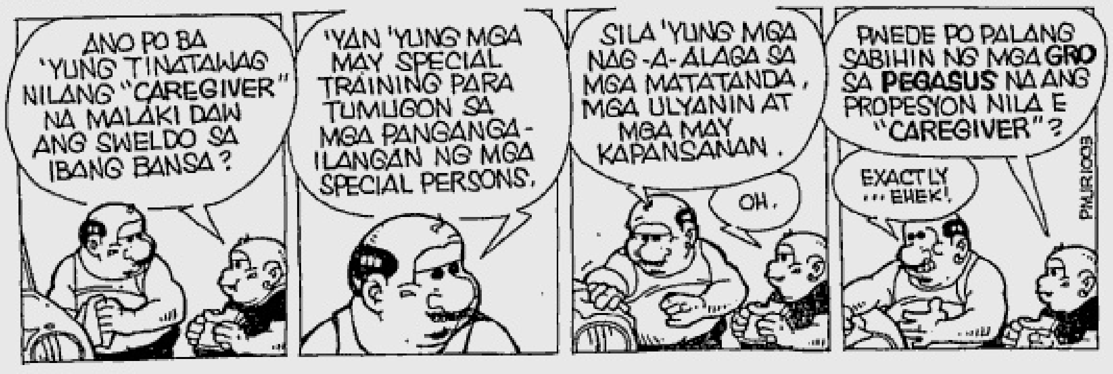
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GUSTO KONG TUMAKBO SA ELECTION
DAHIL GUSTO KONG PAGSILBIHAN ANG BAYAN
AH... GUSTO PA NIYANG MABATIKOS!
10/15/03

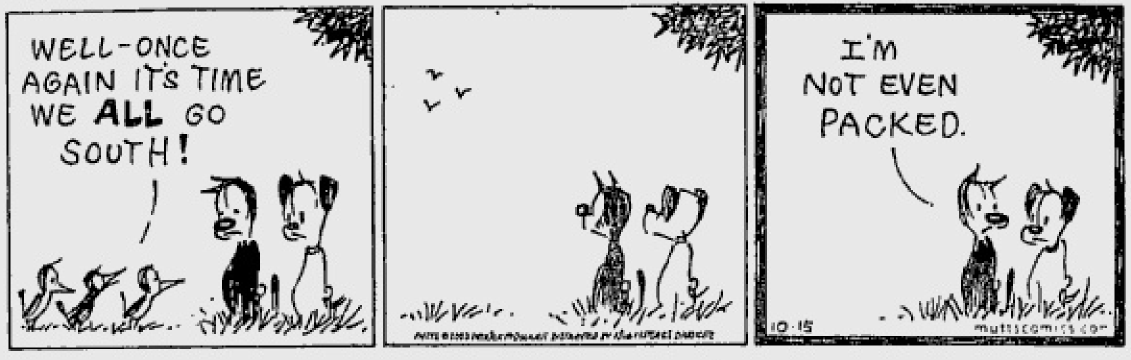
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO PO BA 'YUNG TINATAWAG NILANG "CAREGIVER" NA MALAKI DAW ANG SWELDO SA IBANG BANSA?
'YAN 'YUNG MGA MAY SPECIAL TRAINING PARA TUMUGON SA MGA PANGANGAILANGAN NG MGA SPECIAL PERSONS.
SILA 'YUNG MGA NAG-A-ALAGA SA MGA MATATANDA, MGA ULYANIN AT MGA MAY KAPANSANAN.
OH.
PWEDE PO PALANG SABIHIN NG MGA GRO SA PEGASUS NA ANG PROPESYON NILA E "CAREGIVER"?
EXACTLY ... EHEK!
PMJR.003

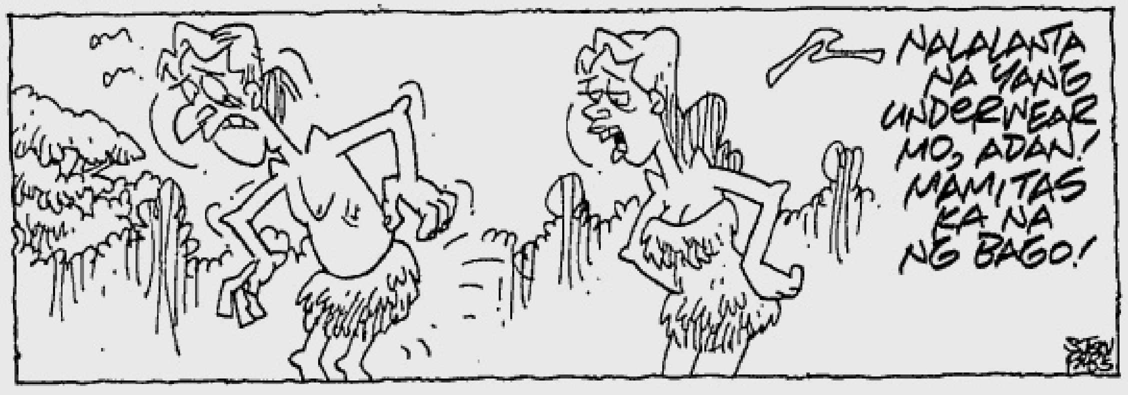
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL-ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME WE ALL GO SOUTH!
I'M NOT EVEN PACKED.
10-15
muttscomics.com

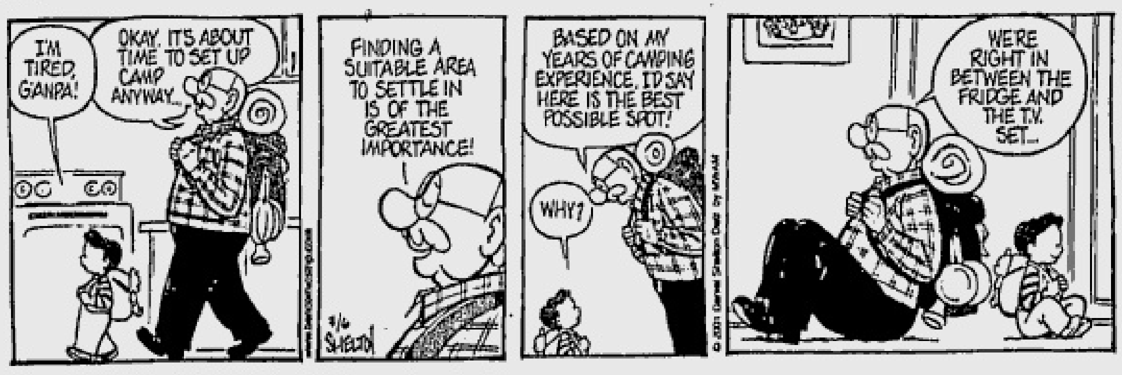
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NALALANTA NA YANG UNDERWEAR MO, ADAN! MAMITAS KA NA NG BAGO!

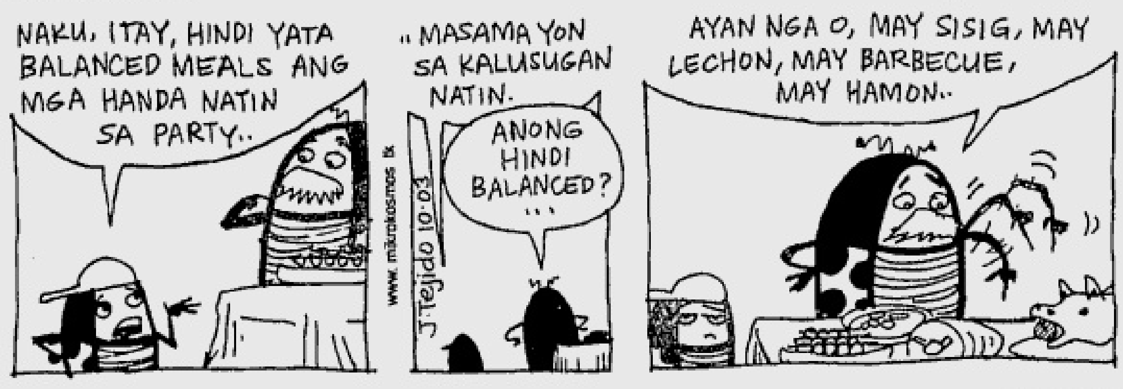
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M TIRED, G'ANPA!
OKAY. IT'S ABOUT TIME TO SET UP CAMP ANYWAY...
FINDING A SUITABLE AREA TO SETTLE IN IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE!
BASED ON MY YEARS OF CAMPING EXPERIENCE, I'D SAY HERE IS THE BEST POSSIBLE SPOT!
WHY?
WE'RE RIGHT IN BETWEEN THE FRIDGE AND THE T.V. SET...

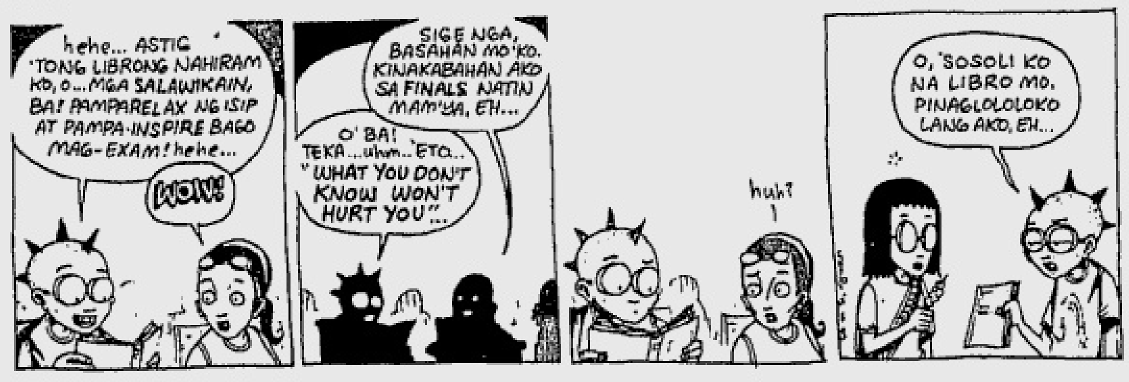
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, ITAY, HINDI YATA BALANCED MEALS ANG MGA HANDA NATIN SA PARTY..
.. MASAMA YON SA KALUSUGAN NATIN.
ANONG HINDI BALANCED? ...
AYAN NGA O, MAY SISIG, MAY LECHON, MAY BARBECUE, MAY HAMON..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10-03

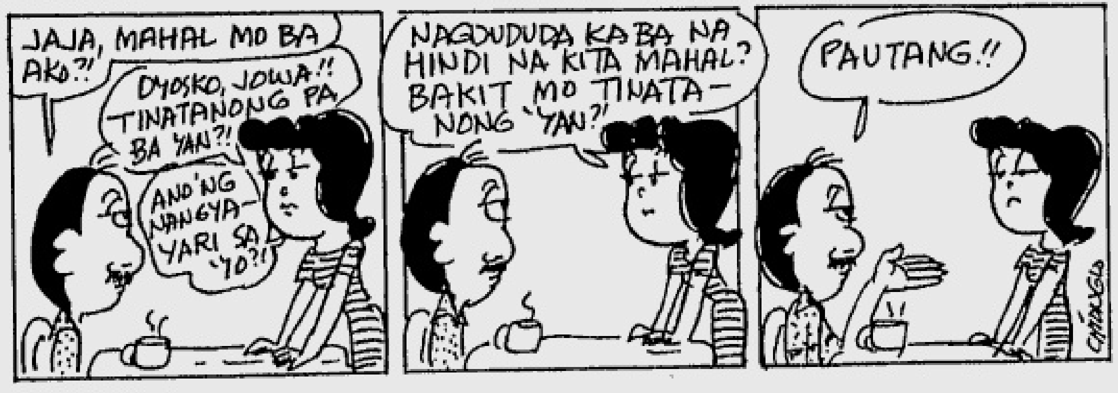
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe... ASTIG 'TONG LIBRONG NAHIRAM KO, O... MGA SALAWIKAIN, BA! PAMPARELAX NG ISIP AT PAMPA-INSPIRE BAGO MAG-EXAM! hehe...
WOW!
SIGE NGA, BASAHAN MO 'KO. KINAKABAHAN AKO SA FINALS NATIN MAM'YA, EH...
O' BA! TEKA... uhm.. ETO.. "WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT YOU"...
huh?
O, 'SOSOLI KO NA LIBRO MO. PINAGLOLOLOKO LANG AKO, EH...

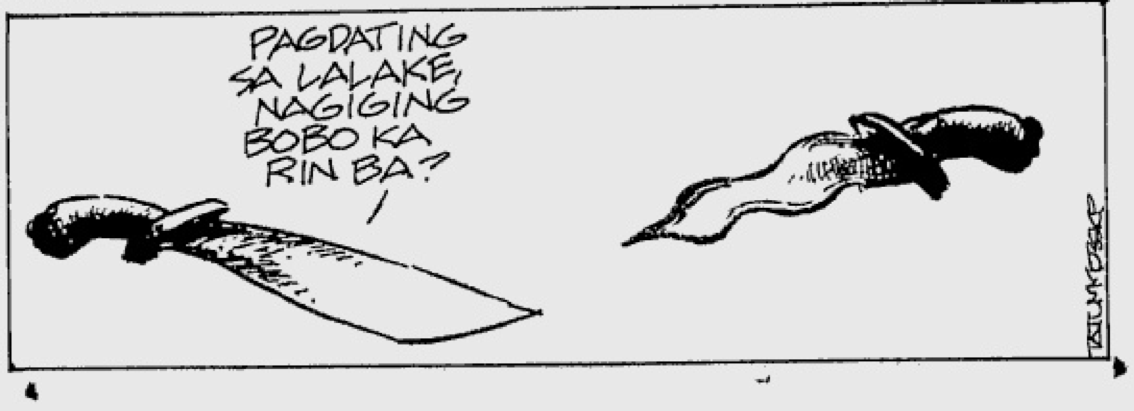
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

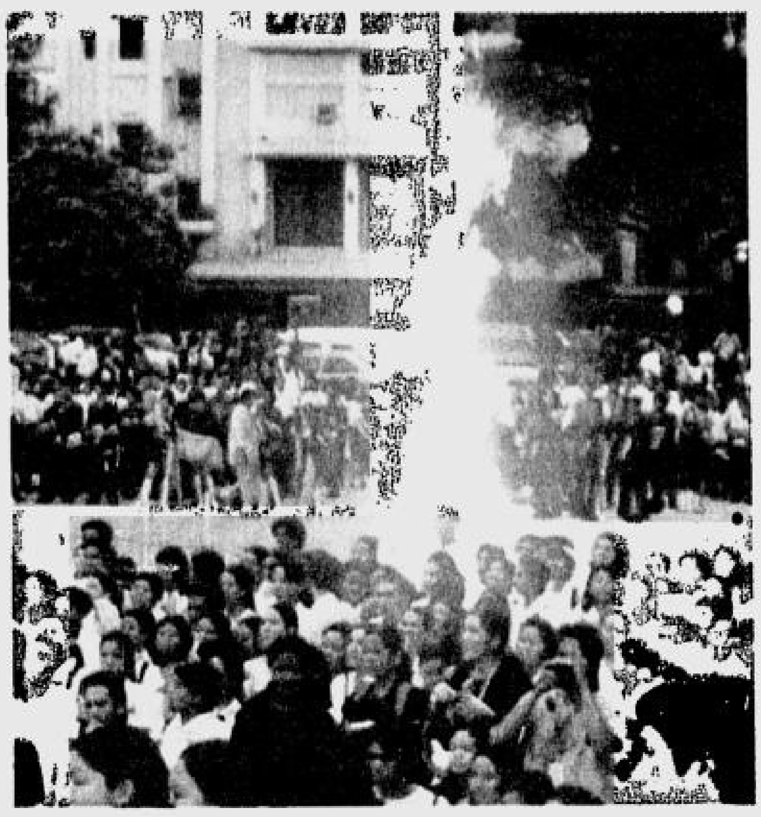

JAJA, MAHAL MO BA AKO?!
DYOSKO, JOWA!! TINATANONG PA BA YAN?!
ANO'NG NANGYAYARI SA 'YO?!
NAGDUDUDA KA BA NA HINDI NA KITA MAHAL? BAKIT MO TINATANONG 'YAN?!
PAUTANG!!
CHIONGLO

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAGDATING SA LALAKE, NAGIGING BOBO KA RIN BA?

**THE TEAM** together with their wives and girlfriends in Boracay



**THE BONFIRE** victory party organized by the FEU administration and alumni association

# Best seat in the house

From page G1

years.

I had watched countless games before I did courtside reporting, and I was really loud when it came to cheering for my team.

But nothing can compare to the feeling of being there on the sidelines with the team—every single game, every timeout, every loss and every victory. Now, I don't miss cheering at all.

Two days after the championship, the FEU community organized a bonfire party on campus to celebrate the Tamaraws' victory. It was an overwhelming sight. The quadrangle was packed with students who couldn't get enough of their hardcourt heroes. The players shyly signed autographs for them for three hours. I was there to present the players by adding some interesting facts about them. I felt dizzy because of the multitudes of shrieking and clamoring students. The FEU Alumni Association gave the cagers certificates of recognition.

I was with the team for their two-night and three-day stay in Boracay to celebrate the championship. We celebrated the birthdays of Jay Sierra, Rj Rizada and Gerard Jones there.

The six players who are graduating—Gerard Jones, Cesar Catli, James Zablan, James Razon and Rhagnee Sinco—I've known for almost five years. I've seen them mature from boys with countless dates to men with character and seriousness.

"I laughed and cried with this team, we shared victories and losses. This team is a family to me. Time is so fast. Now that we are leaving, I hope the rookies will remember the things that we shared with them," Catli said.

In Bora, we rode the banana boat, snorkeled, swam and ate all together. Most of the players had their girlfriends with them, which made the trip more memorable. They were like little children so full of vigor and energy. We went to the flea market and had henna tattoos of the tamaraw head on our backs.

**THROUGH** thick and thin: team manager Anton Montinola and coach Koy Banal

**DANNY** Gavieres, the Tams' coach in 1997 when the team also won the UAAP crown

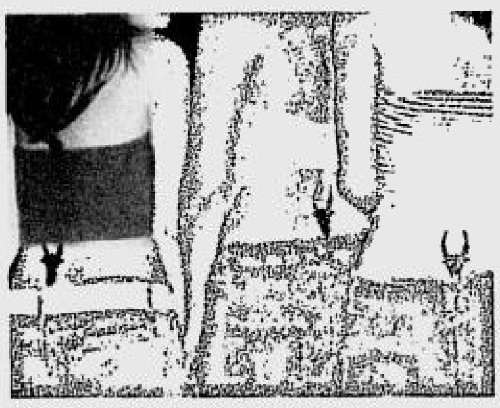
And since the art shop owner was a fine arts student graduate of FEU, he gave us a really good discount. We were all very happy.

Even Mr. Anton Montinola, the team manager who has witnessed four championships of FEU, said this was the sweetest and most memorable victory by far.

It was a heartwarming scene; the players were demonstrative of their emotions. They puffed tobaccos together (they all swore it was their first time) as part of the tradition and drank champagne. Later, we went dancing at a bar where the players took turns showing off their dancing skills on the dance floor.

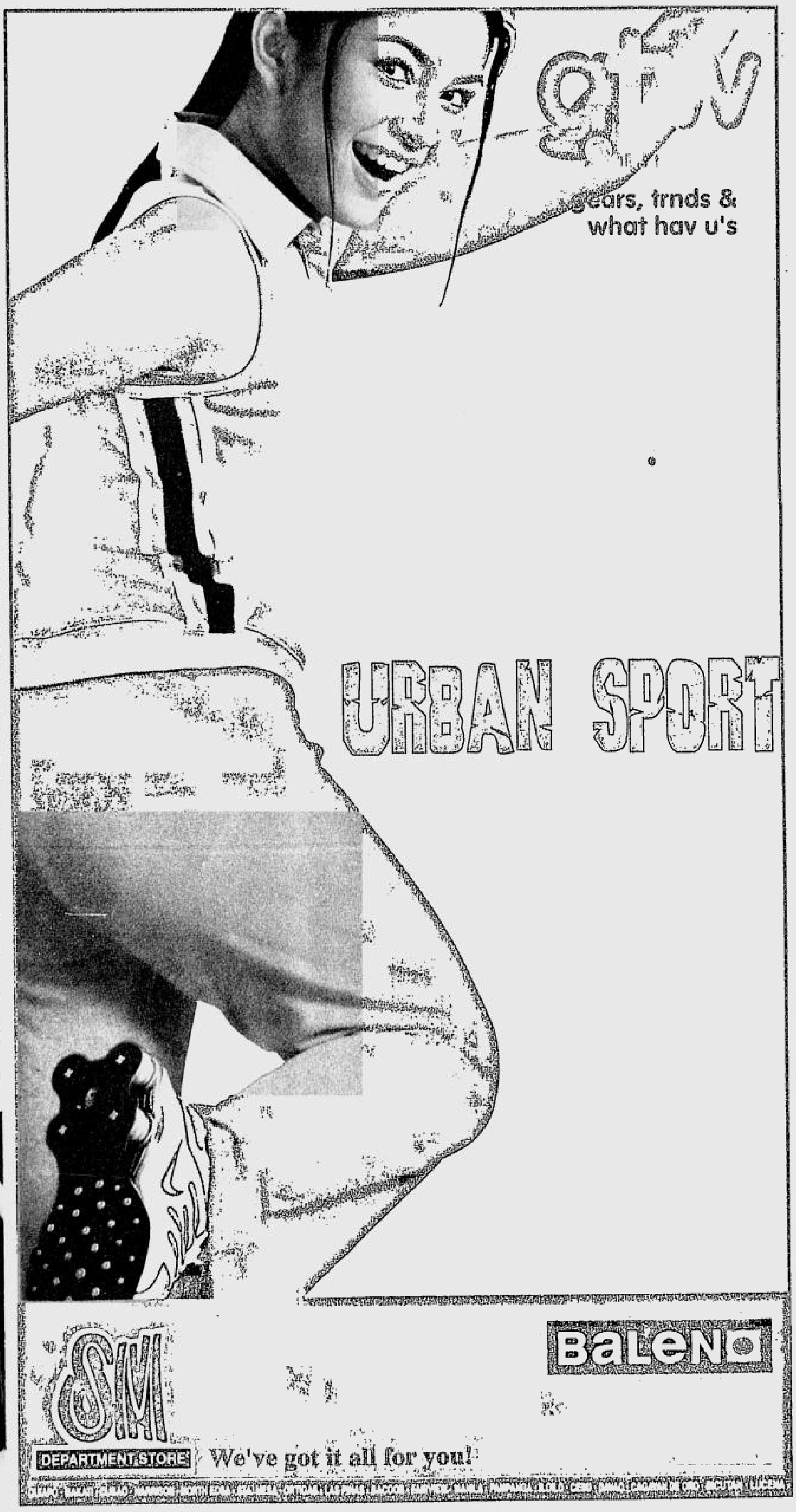
In all this, I had the best seat in the house, and I got to experience how it was to lose and win with a team that had so much passion and focus. I learned so much from hanging out with them. For one, life is no different from basketball; to get to the top, it takes hard work and discipline.

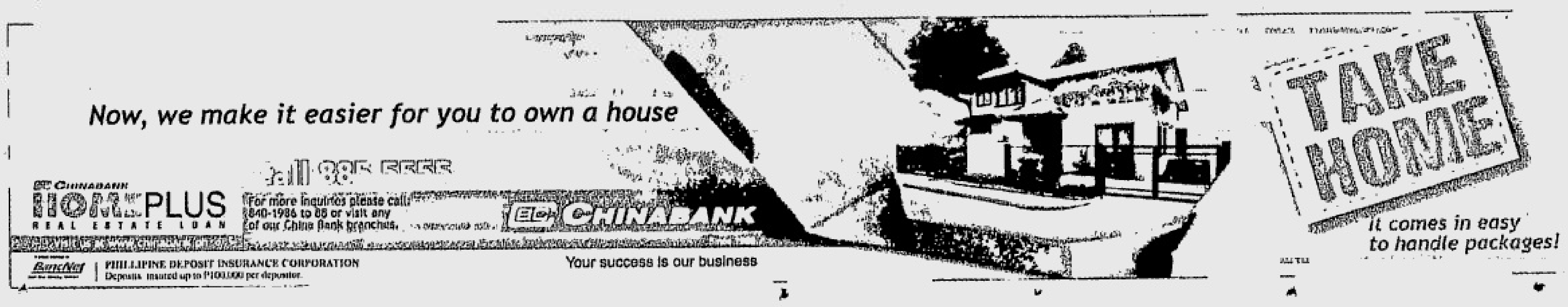
This has been a truly a memorable season, sweaty armpits and all.



**GIRLS** with their henna Tamaraws

**GOODBYE** seniors: Cesar Catli, Rhagnee Sinco, Gerard Jones, Nick Gadiane, James Razon and James Zablan

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# UAAP basketball end-of-season awards

**By Jude Turcuato**
*Contributor*

ANOTHER exciting UAAP basketball tournament comes to an end. New heroes, new memories and a new champion. It was a season that used instant replay, broke a backboard, and renewed rivalries off the court. Now that the season is officially over, here are my picks as the best of 2003.

### Most Valuable Player

**Arwind Santos (FEU).** It's difficult to shine above the rest when you have a lineup like FEU's but last year's Rookie of the Year was able to do it.

Honorable Mention (HM): **James Yap (UE)**

### Rookie of the Year

**Joseph Casio (DLSU).** He led the league in steals and had moments of greatness that showed us a glimpse of how good he could be for the Archers.

HM: **Marvin Cruz (UP)**

### Coach of the Year

**Koy Banal (FEU).** His team peaked at the right time and swept through the playoffs. He was able to harness the talents of his players and keep them focused on the prize.

HM: **Joel Banal (ADMU)**

### Defensive Player of the Year

**Arwind Santos (FEU).** He has the lethal combination of talent and anticipation to block shots and keep offenses at bay.

HM: **Joseph Casio (DLSU)**

### Offensive Player of the Year

**James Yap (UE).** He just finds a way to get the ball in the basket. He is a scoring machine who can put up impressive numbers at any time.

HM: **Mark Cardona (DLSU)**

### Sportsmanship Award

**Derek Hubalde (UST).** Even with limited playing time, the fifth-year player never complained.

HM: **Ramil Tagupa (AdU)**

> Here's a toast to the best moments of 2003.

### Most Improved Player

**Nestor David (UP).** Surprised most people this year.

HM: **Tyrone Tang (DLSU)**

### Comeback of the Year

**FEU's first-round game vs DLSU.**

HM: **FEU's second-round game vs DLSU.**

### Chairman of the Boards

**Rich Alvarez (ADMU).** When he puts his mind to it, he can get to any rebound.

HM: **Arwind Santos (FEU)**

### Most Underrated Player

**Ryan Rizada (FEU).** He quietly hit the big shots for the Tams.

HM: **Ronnie Cajayon (UST).**

IT'S the year of the Tams!
ERNIE SARMIENTO

### Most Unusual Reason for a Game Delay

**Exploding electric fan on the FEU bench.**

HM: **Broken backboard in the Blue Eagle Gym.**

### Best Pep Squad

**UST Salingawi Dancers.** Hands down, the best performers during the Cheerdance Competition.

HM: **UP**—still my pick for halftime performances.

### Loudest Fans

**Ateneo de Manila.** Their fighting spirit is always evident no matter what the score is.

HM: **University of the East**

### Best Dunker at Warm-ups

**JC Intal (ADMU)**

HM: **Niño Canaleta (UE)**

### Dunk of the Year

**Paul Artadi (UE).** After a steal, he streaked down the court and slammed it home vs UP.

HM: **Rich Alvarez (ADMU)** in the endgame in the first-round match vs UE.

### Most Amazing Shot that Didn't Count

**Jun Jun Cabatu (DLSU) vs UE.** His shot was a split second too late, but it gave the Archers hope going into the Final Four.

### Most Amazing Shot that Did Count

**Joseph Yeo (DLSU)** hitting a three-pointer to extend the game into overtime vs NU (the Archers eventually won).

HM: **Paolo Bugia (ADMU)** His 30-footer to beat the shot clock was a big factor in Ateneo's advance to the finals.

### Best Courtside Reporter

**Hazel Aguilon (DLSU)**

HM: **Carmie Tajutco (ADMU)**

### Mr. Hustle Award

**Mark Cardona (DLSU).** His hustle and heart is something every coach would love to have on his team.

HM: **Rhagnee Sinco (FEU)**

### Comeback Player of the Year

**Kenneth Robin (UP).** Led the league in rebounding before he got injured in the second round.

HM: **Mark Kong (AdU)**

### Best Venue for the Games

**Araneta Coliseum.** You can't beat the air-conditioning.

HM: **Blue Eagle Gym.** Hey, at least there was ample parking.

### Best Return on Investment for the Season

**Studio 23.** Had four instant sellout DLSU-ADMU games this year to go along with two finals games.

HM: **Ticket scalpers**

### Best Shooter

**James Yap (UE).** When he has the feeling, the defenders are helpless.

HM: **Ronnie Cajayon (UST)**

### Best Trash Talkers

Tie: **Wesley Gonzalez (ADMU), Mark Cardona (DLSU)**

HM: **Mark Abadia (AdU)**

### Clutch Player of the Year

**Larry Fonacier (ADMU).** He's at his best when there's pressure.

HM: **Joseph Yeo (DLSU).**

### Best Player not Included in the Mythical Five

**Mark Cardona (DLSU).** There were times during the season when he was simply unstoppable.

HM: **Larry Fonacier (ADMU)**

### Best Interactive Sports Show

**UAAP Central.** Too bad it was only on PinoyCentral TV.

HM: **"In The Zone"** on Sportsradio AM918 on Monday mornings.

### Best Website

**Pinoyexchange.com.** Still the most visited site when it comes to UAAP discussions.

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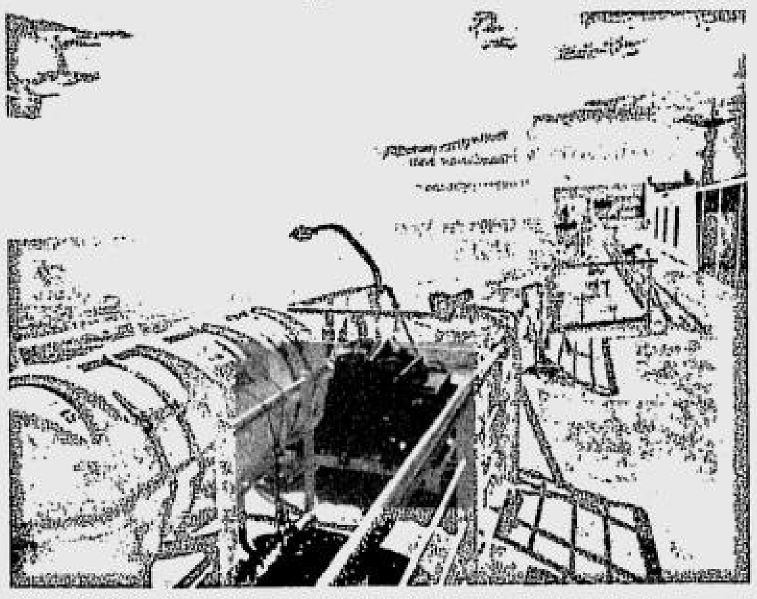

**A SPLENDID** view of the morning sky aboard SuperFerry 15

# Once upon a *ferry*

By Allison W. Lopez

IF 22 hours of travel to Cebu seem like an eternity to others, to those of us who recently took the SuperFerry, the hours were filled with moments no 45-minute airplane ride could ever replace.

I had hoped for a fun and interesting group—and got what I wished for in the 42 hours we sailed together to and from Cebu.

At 6 p.m. on a Thursday, our SuperFerry hosts took us to dinner in the first class dining room of one of their newest ships, the SuperFerry 14, which boasted of an escalator to make boarding easier. Our ship on the way back to Manila, the SuperFerry 15, would also have an escalator.

We were welcomed by Toto, the K-9 assigned to protect Ferry 14. Well, it didn't exactly welcome us because if it did, then it would have been too friendly for its purpose. Every ship has its sniffing dog not only to make sure the ship is safe but also to make the passengers feel secure.

### Like a classy hotel

The facilities of this floating hotel were impressive and the staff, highly trained in hotel operations.

From the high-end suites down to the economy class, the beds were comfortable and spacious enough to ensure a restful slumber. Pillows and beddings were provided free for everyone.

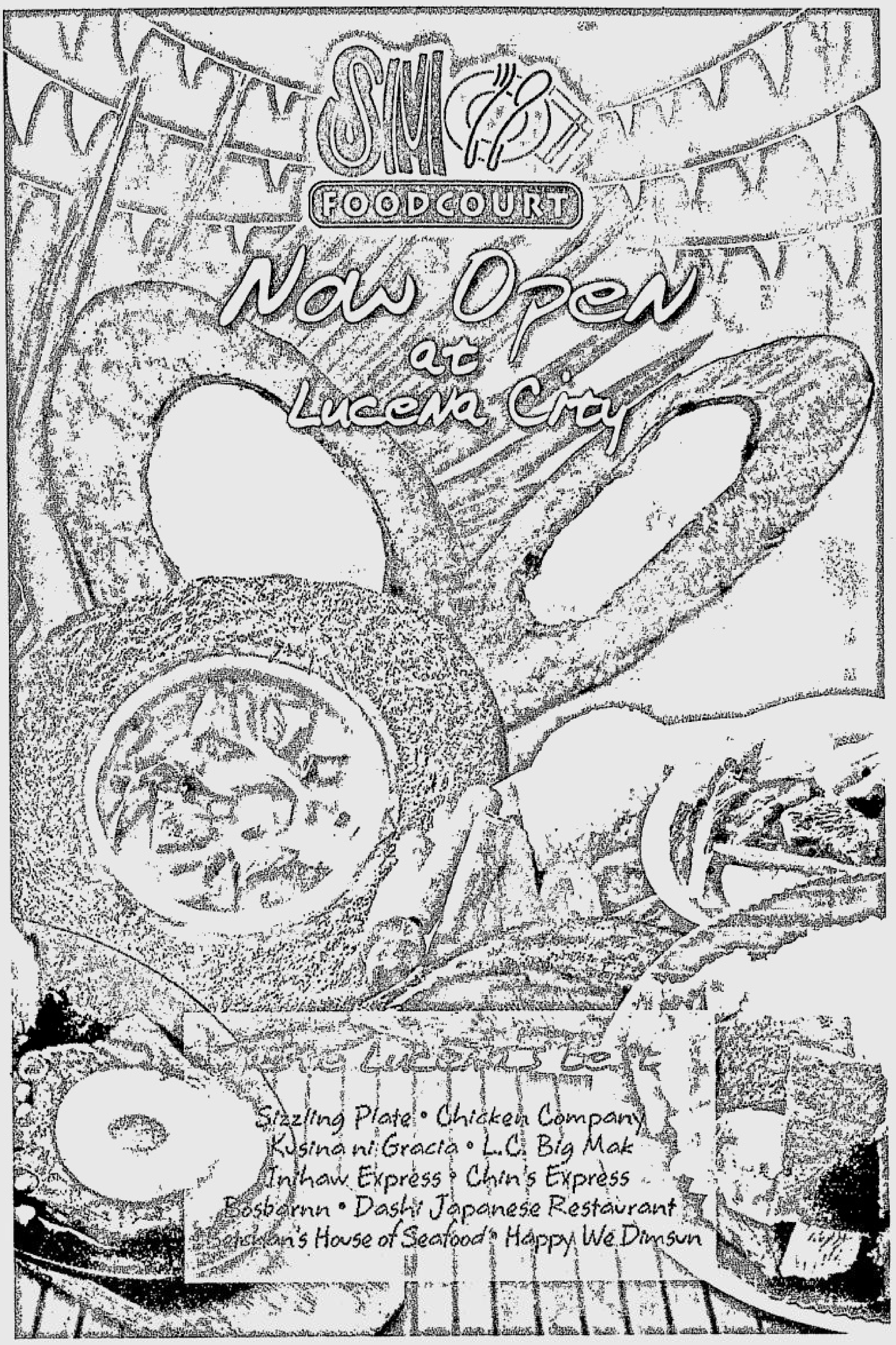
The suites and staterooms were, of course, an indulgence. Perfect for honeymooners, each had its own bathroom with a tub. A suite had a living room while a stateroom had a small couch.

Our cabin, both in SF 12 and 15, was just right for our group. Good for four or six people, the cabin had a considerably smaller bathroom, but then it had a functional hot shower to ward off the biting cold of rainy September (goodie!). You could also watch cable TV, but we wouldn't really recommend spending much time on that since there was a much better view outside.

Then came our videoke time at the ship's bar. With a glass of beer in one hand (to boost that confidence) and a mic on the other, the closet videoke lovers among our hosts sang one song after the other, warming up the house for the group.

After hanging out in the SF 12's first class dining room (which also had videoke) and exploring the deck, we retreated to our cab-

ONCE/ H2



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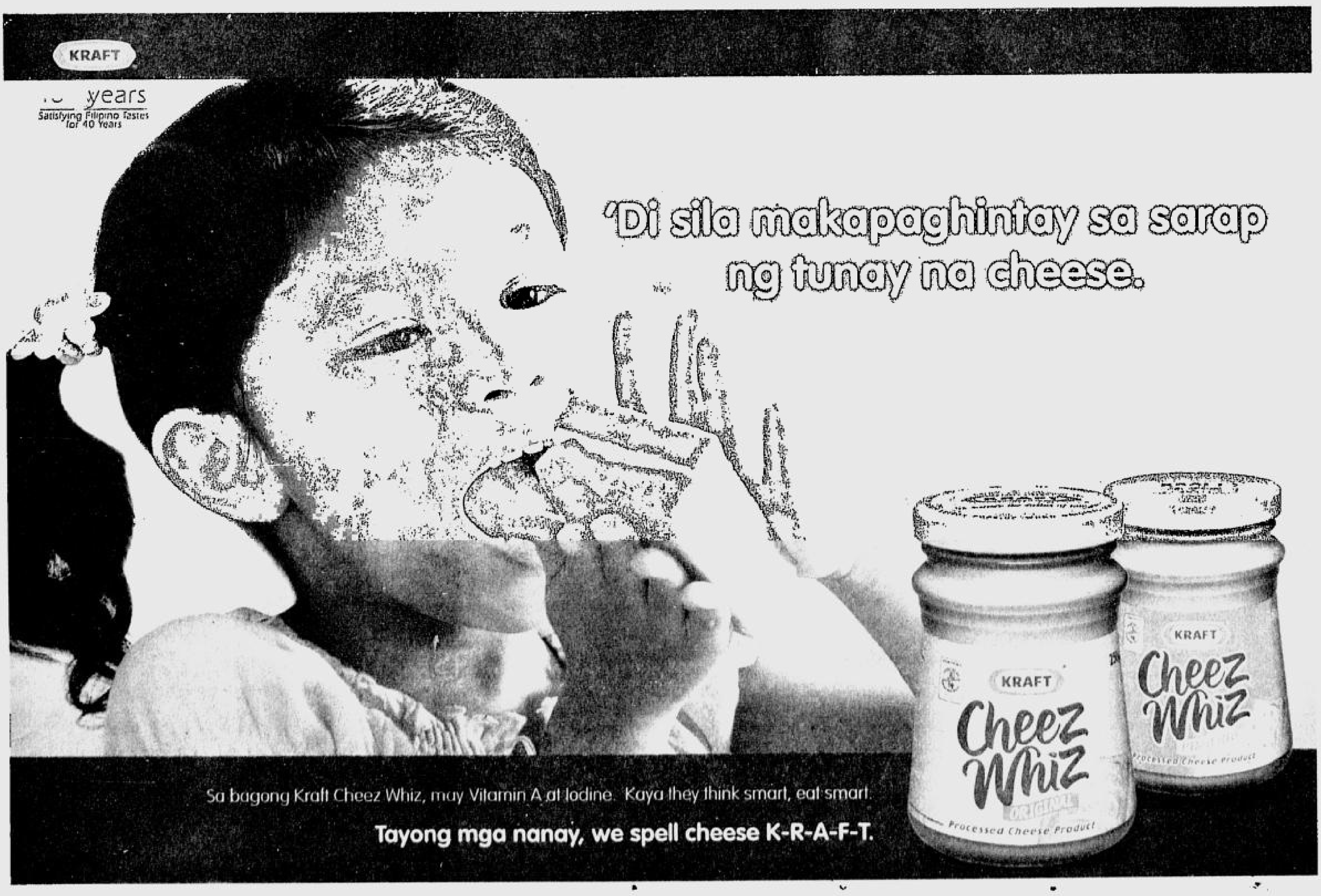

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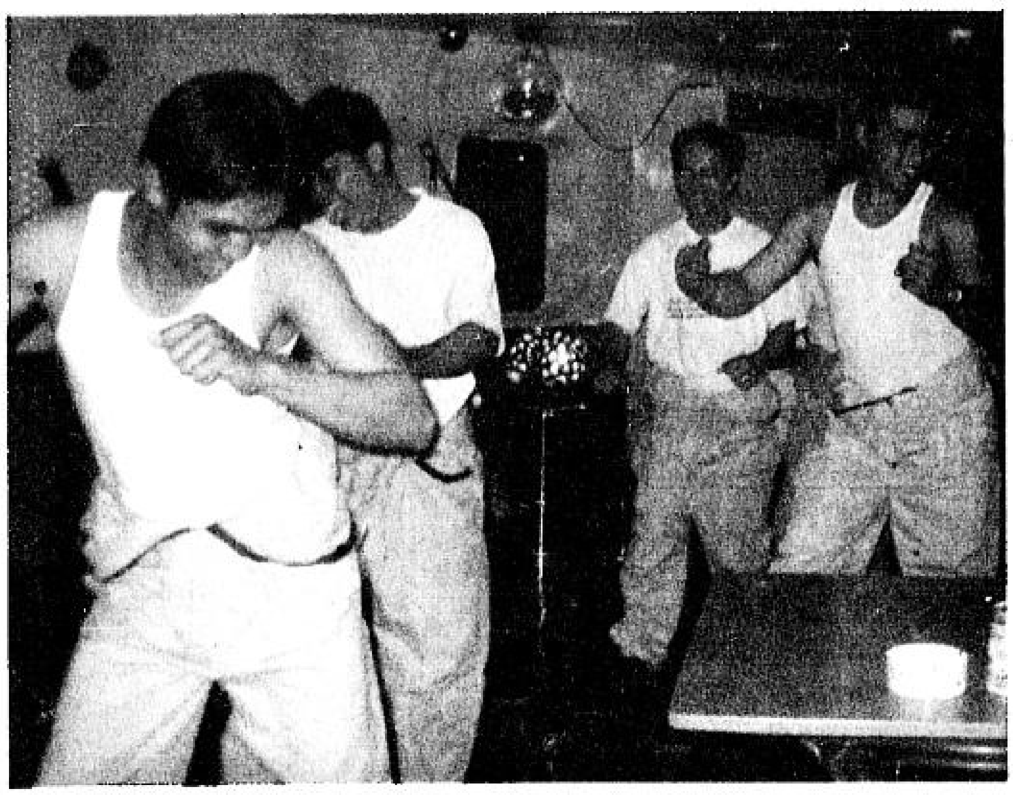
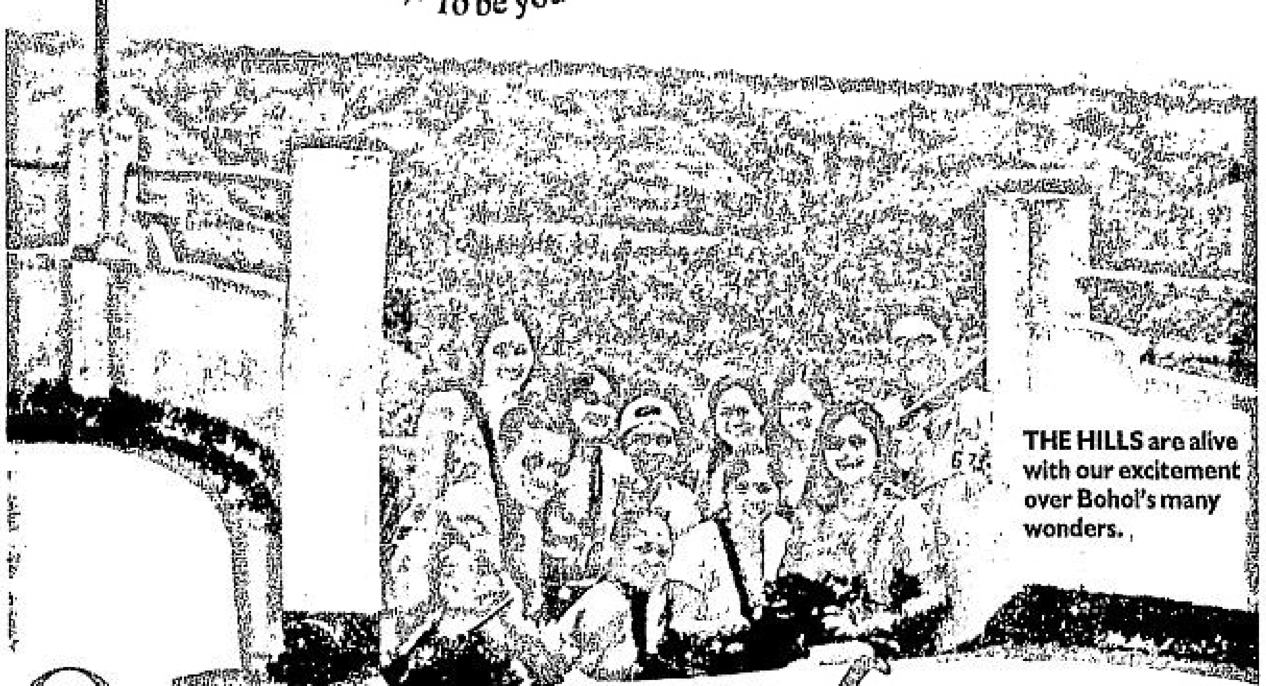


"*SANA, SANA, ako na lang ang gawin mong papa...*" SF 15's macho crew gyrate to the Masculados' song at the economy dining room-cum-disco bar

# Once upon a ferry



**THE HILLS** are alive with our excitement over Bohol's many wonders.

From page H1

ins at around 3 a.m. I loved the ultimate privacy the curtains around each bed gave—I mean, who wants to be seen sleeping like a zombie? And what a wonderful and deep sleep it was that I woke up at almost 11 a.m.

## Splendid views

Being the largest among the company's vessels, the SuperFerry 12 was a little difficult to navigate—for us. We roamed around its long hallways and numerous decks taking shots of just about everything, notably the splendid views of the blue sea, the islands we passed by, the clear skies, even dolphins. The dolphins were strutting their stuff at sea, and we happily clicked away but never really caught them on cam.

We were later amazed to find a basketball court set up right next to the pool. I thought, how would they play basketball beside the pool? My question was answered when an energetic group played a game in the late afternoon, with a net ingeniously set up to cover the pool side.

A dip in the jacuzzi at sunset was next. With the enclosed area reserved for our group for two hours, we spoiled ourselves with the spectacular view of the sunset, drank wine and played a mean card game of Slapjack.

At the ship's first class restaurant, dining, as always, was very filling. We looked forward to our meals, which were appetizing from start (hot soup) to mid (choices of meat and fish, plus bubbly iced tea) to finish (scrumptious brownies and cookies for dessert). An extra treat? You got to eat all you could. No wonder we gained all those pounds!

We then proceeded to the economy dining room cum bar, which turned out to be a blast because it had live entertainment. Night owls filled the bar to the brim because it was officer's night. The officers sang the oldies, and the bartenders juggled wine bottles, much to the delight of the audience.

At around 2:30 a.m., upon our arrival in Cebu, we checked in at the Waterfront Hotel and slept immediately since we had a big and exciting day ahead.

At 8 a.m., we hurriedly boarded the Supercat for Bohol. The Supercat is SuperFerry's fastcraft for short island transfers. We inevitably dozed off on the boat's comfy cushioned seats for almost the whole 45-minute trip. Angelina Jolie failed to keep us awake on the wide TV screen as "Lara Croft."

## Revelation

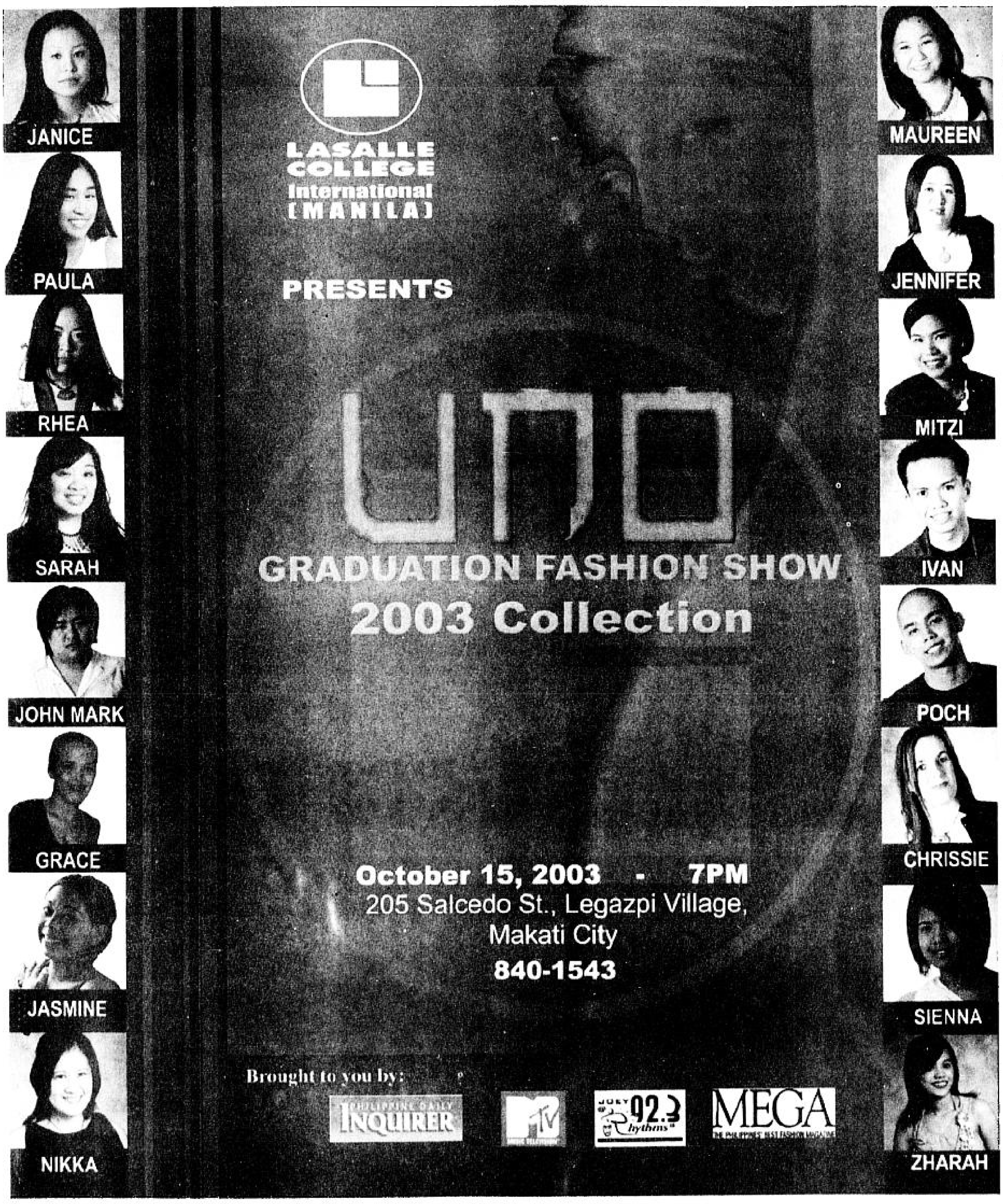
Bohol, as they said, was a revelation. From the famed 1,776 Chocolate Hills, the irresistible tarsiers, the memorable lunch cruise at Loboc River, the Loboc Church and Museum, a yummy *halo-halo merienda* at Bohol Tropics Resort, our day tour in Bohol was short but sweet.

We left for Cebu at 5 p.m. on the Supercat and took yet another nap to re-energize. The night was still young, and we were just about to taste the nightlife Cebu City had to offer.

Dinner, or better yet, a feast of Filipino food at the Lighthouse Restaurant, was a perfect cap to our tiring day. We jumped next to Sun-

ONCE/H3

**FATHER** and child bonding and enjoying the sea breeze on SF 15's deck ALLISON LOPEZ



LASALLE COLLEGE International [MANILA]

PRESENTS

UNO

GRADUATION FASHION SHOW

2003 Collection

October 15, 2003 - 7PM
205 Salcedo St., Legazpi Village,
Makati City
840-1543

## Manila's Only International Fashion School to Hold Graduate Fashion Show!

LaSalle College International (Manila) will host UNO on October 15, 2003. This much anticipated event will be the school's first Graduation Fashion Show, featuring Avant Garde, Pret-a-porter and Haute Couture creations of its first 16 graduates.

The young designers who finished 2 years of intensive Fashion Design program are: **Paula Calantuan, Maureen de Guzman, Sarah Imson, Janice Lim, Zharah Limbona, John Mark Magallanes, Chrissie Matheson, Grace Paguila, Ivan Pajares, Sienna Paras, Mitzi Quileadrino, Rhea Santayana, Poch Santos, Jasmine Schwalb, Veronica Velayo** and **Jennifer Young.**

The career prospects for a fashion designer are numerous. They can become entrepreneurs and have their own boutiques or collections; they can also work for manufacturers, importers or exporters. An ever-increasing number of retailers employ designers to create in-house branded lines. A graduate of a fashion design course can also have a very satisfying career as a stylist, fashion consultant, pattern designer, or pattern maker. Other interesting avenues for them are costume design or fashion coordination for movies, television and theatre shows, as well as for advertising and film clips.

UNO will also launch LaSalle College International's new location, the Bloomingdale Building, 205 Salcedo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati.

The new venue, more accessible from all poles of the metropolis, will be able to accommodate the steadily increasing stream of student applicants.

This double launch is the brainchild of the school's new Director, architect Odile Henault, who was Director of LaSalle College International in Bogota, Colombia from 1999 to 2002.

LaSalle College International, based in Montreal, Canada, is one of the world's largest fashion teaching institutions with its network of affiliated schools in several countries, which include China, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia among others.

The involvement of LaSalle College teachers is the very foundation of the College's exceptional reputation. The teaching team prepares LaSalle College graduates for the prevailing conditions in the workplace or for pursuing higher studies. The dedication the teachers exhibit is a key factor in the transmission of the work ethic, entrepreneurship, and the need to surpass one's own limits.

UNO is directed by the talented Robby Carmona, assisted by his creative crew from SaGa.

UNO is brought to you by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, MTV Asia, JOEY 92.3 and MEGA Magazine and Publications.

HAVE a romantic sunset dinner with your date on the SuperFerry's deck.

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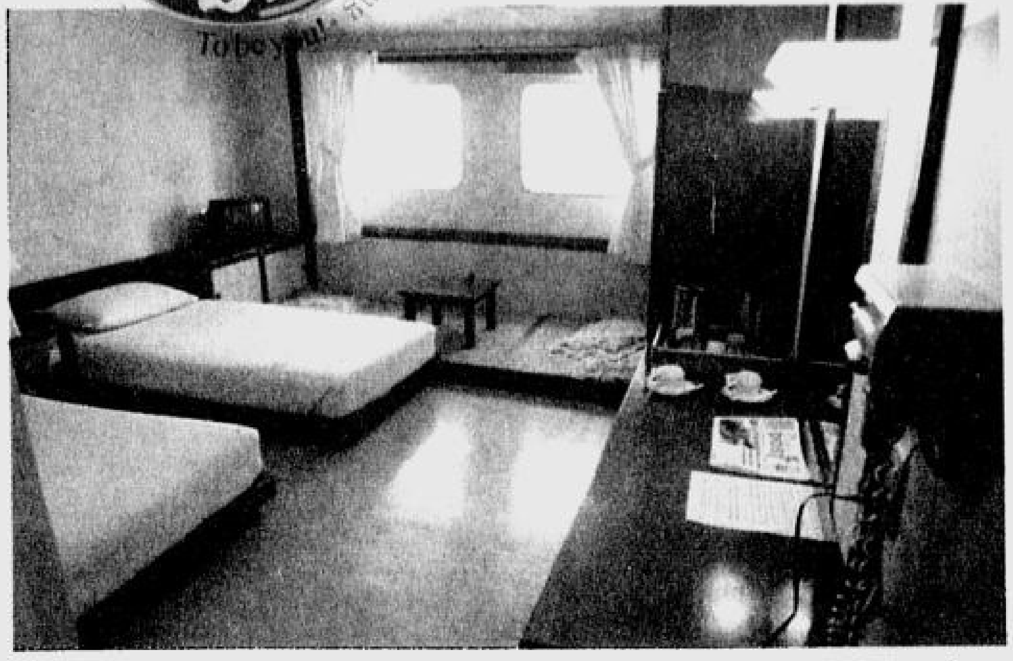
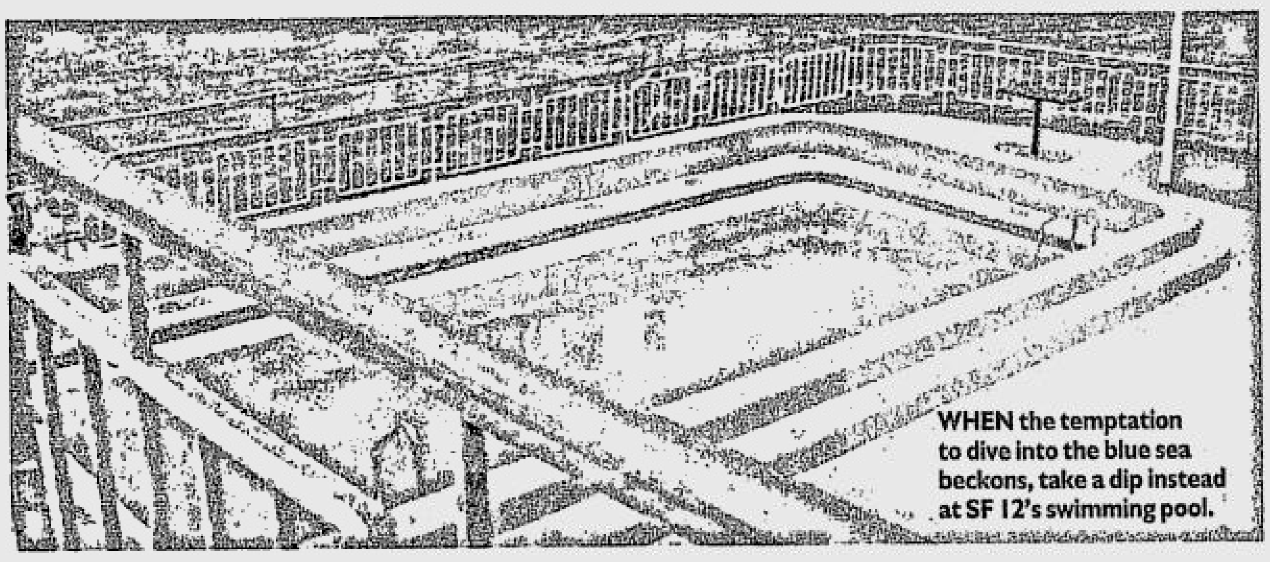
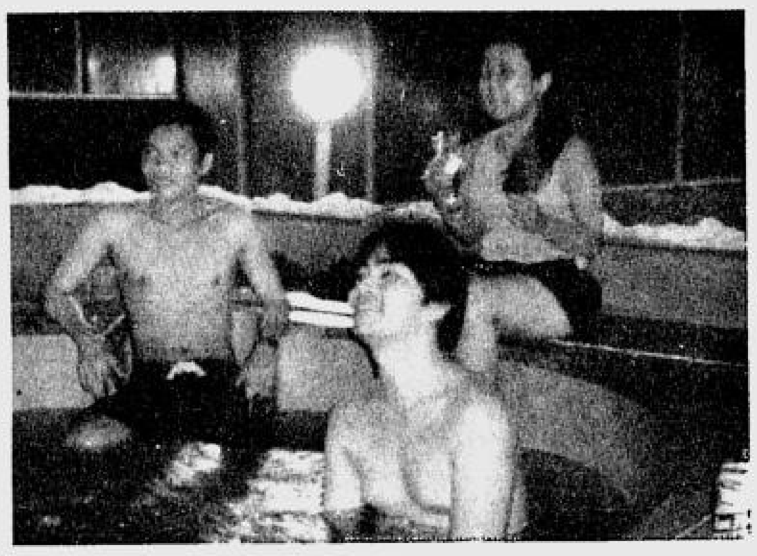


ULTIMATE comfort at the elegant stateroom of SF 15



WHEN the temptation to dive into the blue sea beckons, take a dip instead at SF 12's swimming pool.



JONATHAN Vicente of Manila Times, Judd Salas of SuperFerry and PR Nesa Tanyag enjoy the heat of SF 12's jacuzzi with their drinks.

PHOTOS BY ALLISON LOPEZ ON FUJI FINEPIX F401

# Once upon a ferry

From page H2

flower City Bar and Resto for some cool Saturday night dancing, and found out how infectious the Cebuano energy could be. The huge two-story bar was packed with party people of almost all ages, with live bands that kept us on our feet.

With barely four hours of sleep, we rushed to the Tagbuang Market for some last-minute *pasalubong* shopping.

## Homeward bound

At around 9 a.m., the SuperFerry 15, one of WG&A's newest carriers and our ride back home, left on schedule. Although smaller, the SF 15 had a more spacious viewing deck. We continued our unbridled passion for photography, and proudly showed each other our shots. We were entranced by Ms Chen's diving stories, which sometimes bordered on the spooky but mostly on the amazing that most of us were now inclined to take up diving classes with her.

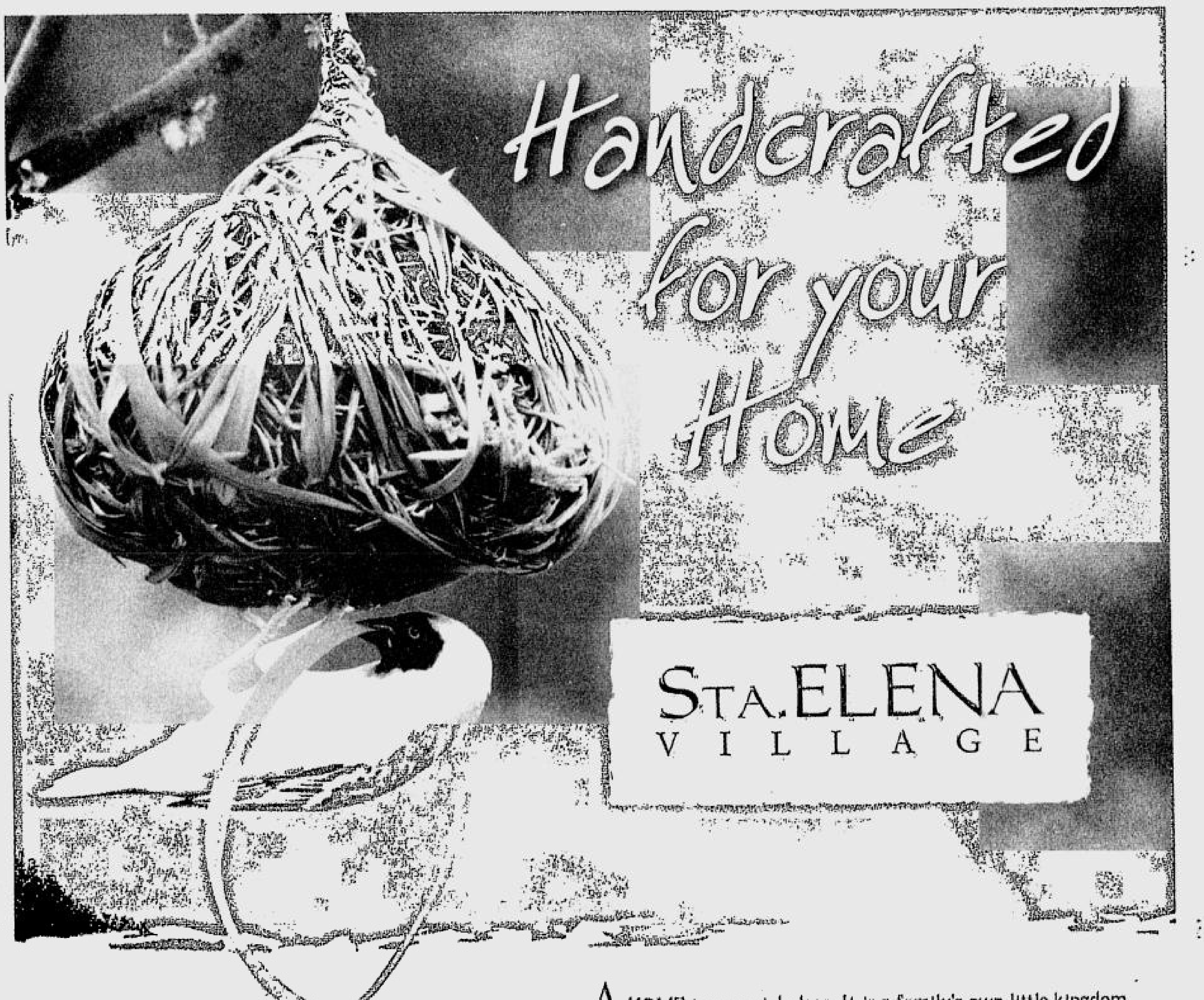
It was another night of bonding over beer and karaoke, and laughing as we scared ourselves silly with ghost stories. That night, we breathed in the last of the sea breeze and the starry, starry skies. In a few hours' time, we would be back to Manila, and we all knew what that meant.

As if on cue, we capped the night off by watching early episodes of "Friends" before bidding each other good night.

In a span of four days, almost two of which were spent aboard the ship, we had gained more than what we expected, and became more than just colleagues who got together on a working trip. Maybe it was the breeze, or the stars, or the sea, or everything about the SuperFerry. Whatever it was, getting to our destination became a sweet, unhurried journey to memory lane.

*Destinations for the SuperFerry also include Cagayan, Coron, Cotabato, Davao, Gen San, Iligan, Iloilo, Masbate, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Surigao, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga. For more information, call 5287888/89 or visit their website at www.wgasuperferry.com*

PLAYING basketball is actually possible—and enjoyable—on board SF 12.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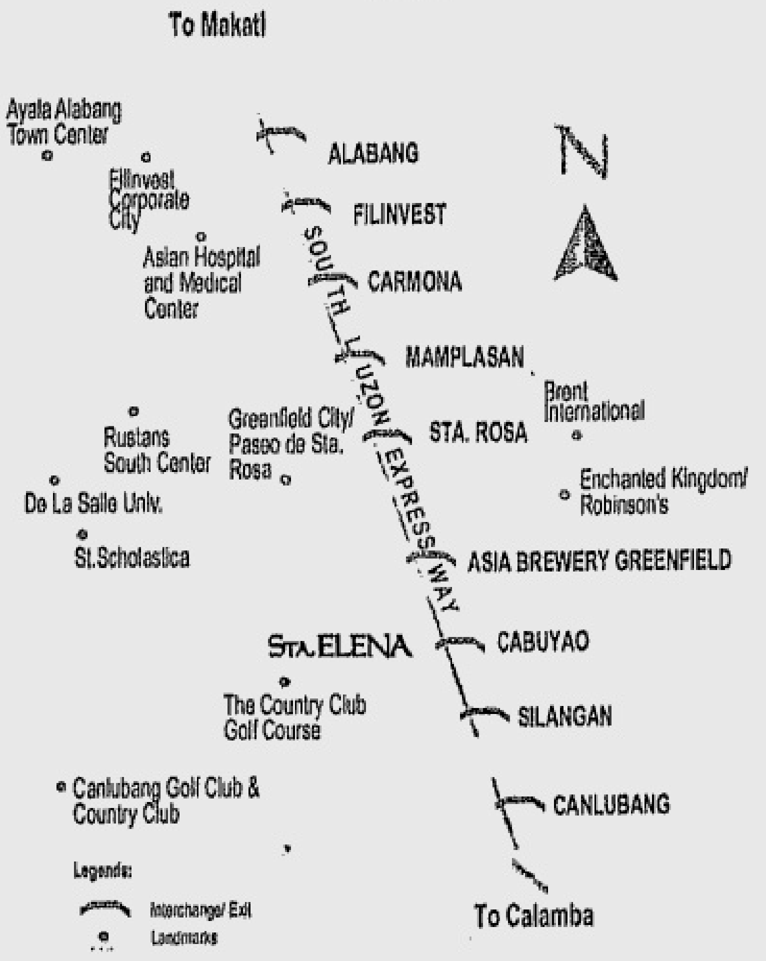
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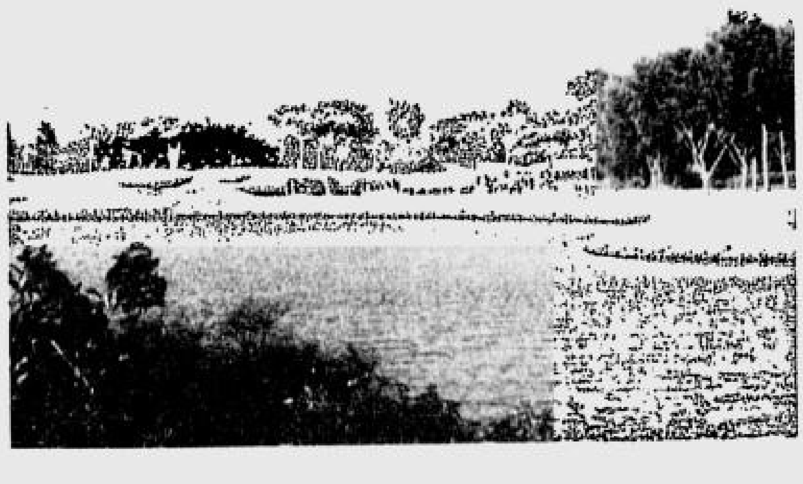

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# Gloss can do the job just as well as stick

Lora Gahol

I SAID it once, I'll say it again. I am no lipstick maven, contrary to what people might expect. Although I'd apply a coat once in a while, I marvel at the many shades and formulations displayed in beauty counters, available for *kikay* consumption. But I am never compelled to bring three tubes of lipstick wherever I go.

Lip gloss, on the other hand, is a different story altogether. I started as a bad Bonne Bell Lip Smacker addict when I was 12 (I had it in all flavors), and I never got over my lip-gloss dependence. On a bad day, when I'm swamped with things to do that I don't even have time to brush my hair, I can go without blush and mascara, but I cannot leave my room without a dab of gloss.

I've always considered lip gloss the most convenient beauty product. It prettifies without unnecessary primping. Look, Ma! No mirror needed! Two seconds is all it takes to liven up your face.

Lucky for us, we don't need to rely solely on the Jelly Bean Lipsmacker for a yummy pair of smoochers, nor do we have to spend on heavy-duty lipsticks for high-glam gimmick night mouths.

Gloss now comes in various colors, ranging from the most natural pink to the reddest scarlet, and is available in both sheer and rich, long-staying formulas. You can never have enough lip gloss, so expand your collection with my personal faves.

**Shu Uemura Sweet Lip Gloss.** The newest beauty treat to hit the Shu counters is what I always think of as lip candy… literally. These tubes of jellybean-colored gloss are truly the sweetest products to ever touch your lips. With a sheer, light formula that will remind you of fruit jam and jelly, Shu's most affordable lip product is a real pleasure to the senses with its citrusy-slash-sugary smell, delish lollipop-like taste, and silky-smooth, non-sticky feel.

Call it a sweetness overload, but I personally love pairing the sheer, translucent Pear Sweet Lip Gloss with a candy-colored shadow like lilac or mint green—very fresh and youthful. You may want to wear a rosy blush and pile on some Cherry for instant happy disposition. Also available in Rosemary, Lemon, Peach, Mandarin, Strawberry and Raspberry.

**L'Oreal Glam Shine.** Definitely my pick for the glitziest, most glamorous mouth, this glimmer-infused gloss is richer and has more pigment than lighter formulas, making it the ultimate beauty weapon for hot nights out. Each shade lends incredible brilliance with glittery "pearls," but the formula stays smooth on the lips.

Let your kisser be the center of attention by applying a layer or two of Glam Shine in sultry Mercury Crystal, keeping the rest of your face subdued with neutral shadow, some flesh-based blush and two coats of mascara. Then relax and let that sexy mouth speak (more than words) for itself.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Lip gloss is the most convenient beauty product, prettifying without unnecessary primping

**Bloom lip gloss.** For the girly-girls out there, these chocolate-scented glosses come in the most feminine hues. Think berry colors, pinkish-browns and even subtle reds for made-up looks that complement those cool sundresses and frilly skirts in your closet. Understated enough for the classroom (I just bit my lip, I promise!), refreshing enough for the beach, and sexy-slash-sweet enough for that all-important first date, Bloom lip glosses make it virtually impossible to go wrong!

I'm hooked on the pinkish shade Bloom lip gloss in Tint gives, but I alternate it with neutral Honey Bunch once in a while.

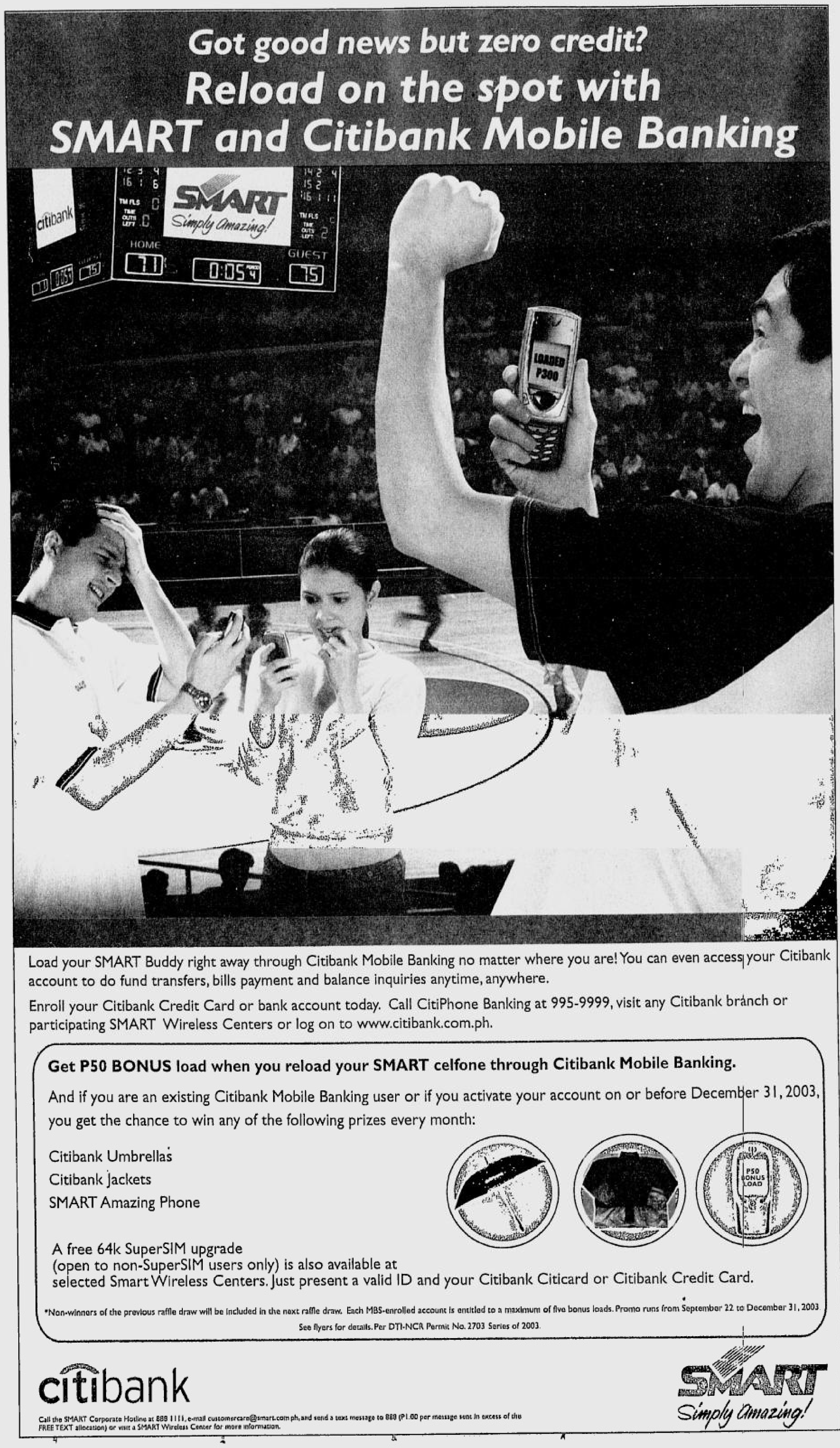
**VMV Hypoallergenics High Gloss Lip Dew.** Want some color but wish to tone down the shine a bit? VMV's High Gloss Lip Dews are for you. Encased in a sleek, no-fuss white packaging, you can choose your favorite shades and take them with you. The palette is so thin, you can easily slip it into an envelope clutch. Ultra-convenient and without the extra frills, you get high-performance, long-staying color with every application.

My must-have from this line? Plum-red Grappa—dramatic without going overboard.

**Lancôme Juicy Rouge.** Who thought lip gloss could come in "lipstick packaging"? That's right. Juicy Rouge is encased in a sleek, holographic silver tube deceptively resembling a lipstick. Once applied, however, all doubts about its true "identity" disappear. Very transparent and light, Juicy Rouge lends a glass-like shine no lipstick can give. The only thing more attractive than its Jetson-era packaging (you'd love to show it off!) are the colors! Yummy, pretty, truly juicy, every devout *kikay* would have a blast trying them on and finding her favorite—that is, if she can settle for only one (I have three!).

*Shu Uemura at Rustan's Makati, Bloom at the Beauty Bar, L'Oreal at PCX, VMV Hypoallergenics at Watson's.*

*E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@yahoo.com*



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selected Smart Wireless Centers. Just present a valid ID and your Citibank Citicard or Citibank Credit Card.

*Non-winners of the previous raffle draw will be included in the next raffle draw. Each MBS-enrolled account is entitled to a maximum of five bonus loads. Promo runs from September 22 to December 31, 2003

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2703 Series of 2003.

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Call the SMART Corporate Hotline at 888 1111, e-mail customercare@smart.com.ph, and send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation) or visit a SMART Wireless Center for more information.

SMART Simply Amazing!

# A shower of phone treats at the mall

CONSUMERS will get to experience and explore the latest Sony Ericsson phone models and accessories in interactive exhibits at Greenbelt 3 and SM Megamall this month.

Get a taste of Sony Ericsson's blend of imaging, entertainment and gaming features with new phones like the user-friendly MMS phone T230 with its five-way navigation key, and the clamshell-designed Z200 and Z600, which both feature ultra-fashionable and exchangeable Style Up covers.

In addition to its sleek design, the Z600 also sports an built-in camera, a 65K screen and features QuickShare, allowing users to take photos and send images via MMS, email, Bluetooth and Infrared in just a few clicks.

Real video players will immediately warm up to the Sony Ericsson Gameboard EGB-10, an innovative attachable game controller specially designed to heighten the gaming experience on the Z600.

Mallers will also get a chance to give the limited edition Sony Ericsson Bluetooth CAR-100 a spin, easily controllable through a Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone.

Visitors to the Sony Ericsson booth at Greenbelt will enjoy game challenges, free downloads, giveaways and special discounts on selected models such as the T100, T105, T310, T610 and P800.

Join the P800 Coffee Club and learn to maximize your P800 features. Owners and buyers of the P800 get free P800 application packs.

Meanwhile, at the SM Megamall Main Activity Area, visit the Sony Ericsson Full Throttle Zone from until tomorrow and get a chance to win a Sony Ericsson T610, the camera phone featured in the hit "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

Join the "Dare to be an Angel" contest by dressing and posing like "Charlie's Angels" as a group of three and having your photo taken using a Sony Ericsson or any camera phone. Send your photo entry via MMS with your name, complete mailing address, email, age and mobile phone number to Globe (0916-2475696), Smart (0920-2768742) and Sun (0922-3243216). Entries will be accepted until Nov. 10.

# LIFESTYLE

young • to be young • beyond

### THE 2BU! FASHION FREAKS

# Invading Cubao's *'ukay-ukay'* haven

Nothing is over P300 here, and haggling is allowed

**By Jason Doplito and Pam Pastor**

This week, the Fashion Freaks followed the trail of a stocky woman carrying a large backpack. She led us to a stall in the middle of Cubao, across the flower stalls at Farmer's Market.

The stall was more than just that. It was a treasure trove.

We came upon racks and racks of clothing. There were skirts of all colors, prints and lengths. There were jackets—leather, fleece-lined, velour, light, heavy, with hood, without hood, small ones, big ones, medium ones, even college jackets. There were pants—long, short, plaid, pinstriped, cotton, leather, satin and more. There were tops—cotton, knits, polyester, plain, bold, with funny logos, with girlie prints, with sleeves, without sleeves.

The clothes were arranged according to kind—there was no need to sift through dusty bins. The stall owner said new stuff arrived at the end of every month—a good way to entice people to come back for more.

The best part? When we went there, nothing was over P300. Haggling is allowed too.

And we thought we had to go all the way to Baguio for a great *ukay-ukay* experience.

We're glad we're wrong.

**LOOSE** shorts for the loose-limbed guy. P100

**DITCH** your jeans and shift to this soft denim printed skirt. P135

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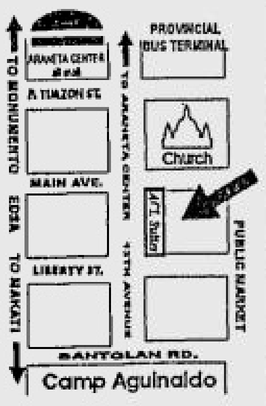
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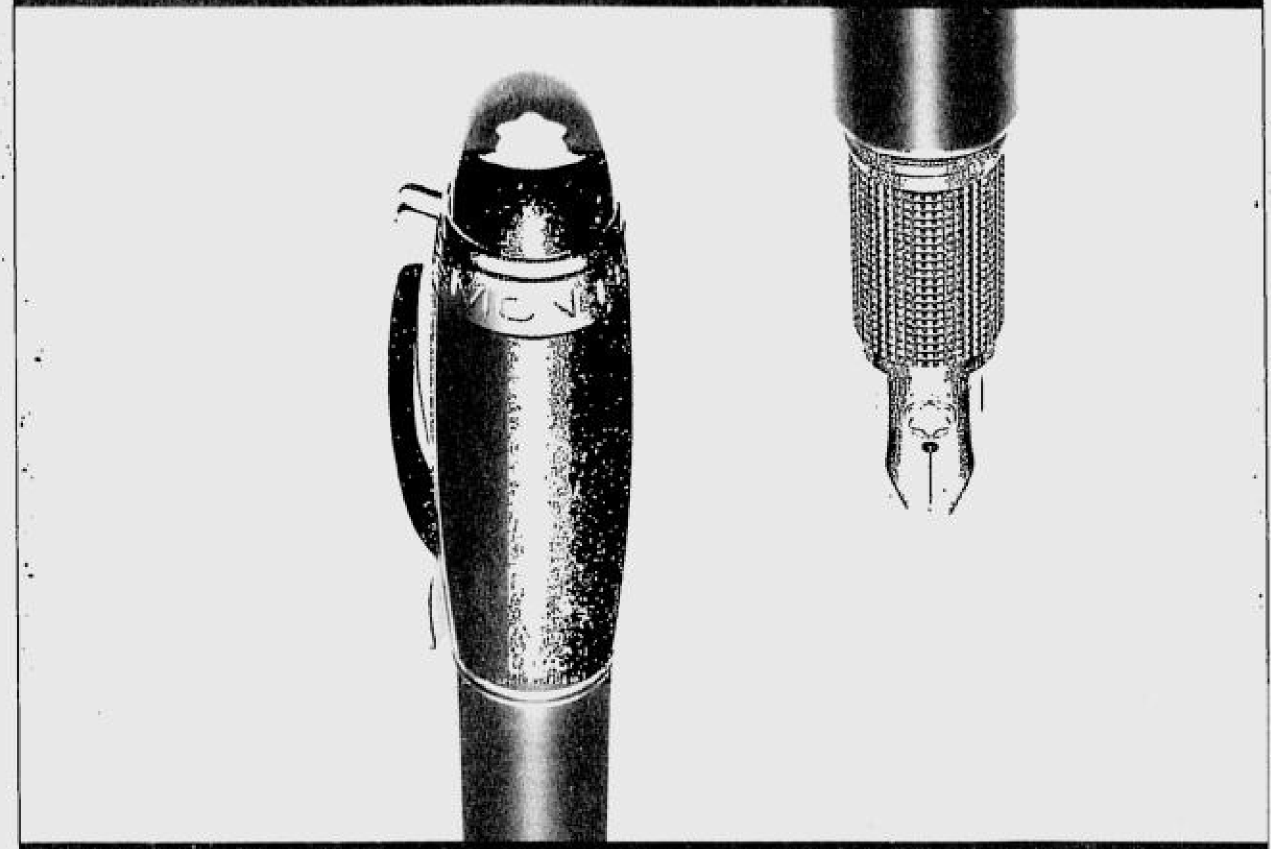

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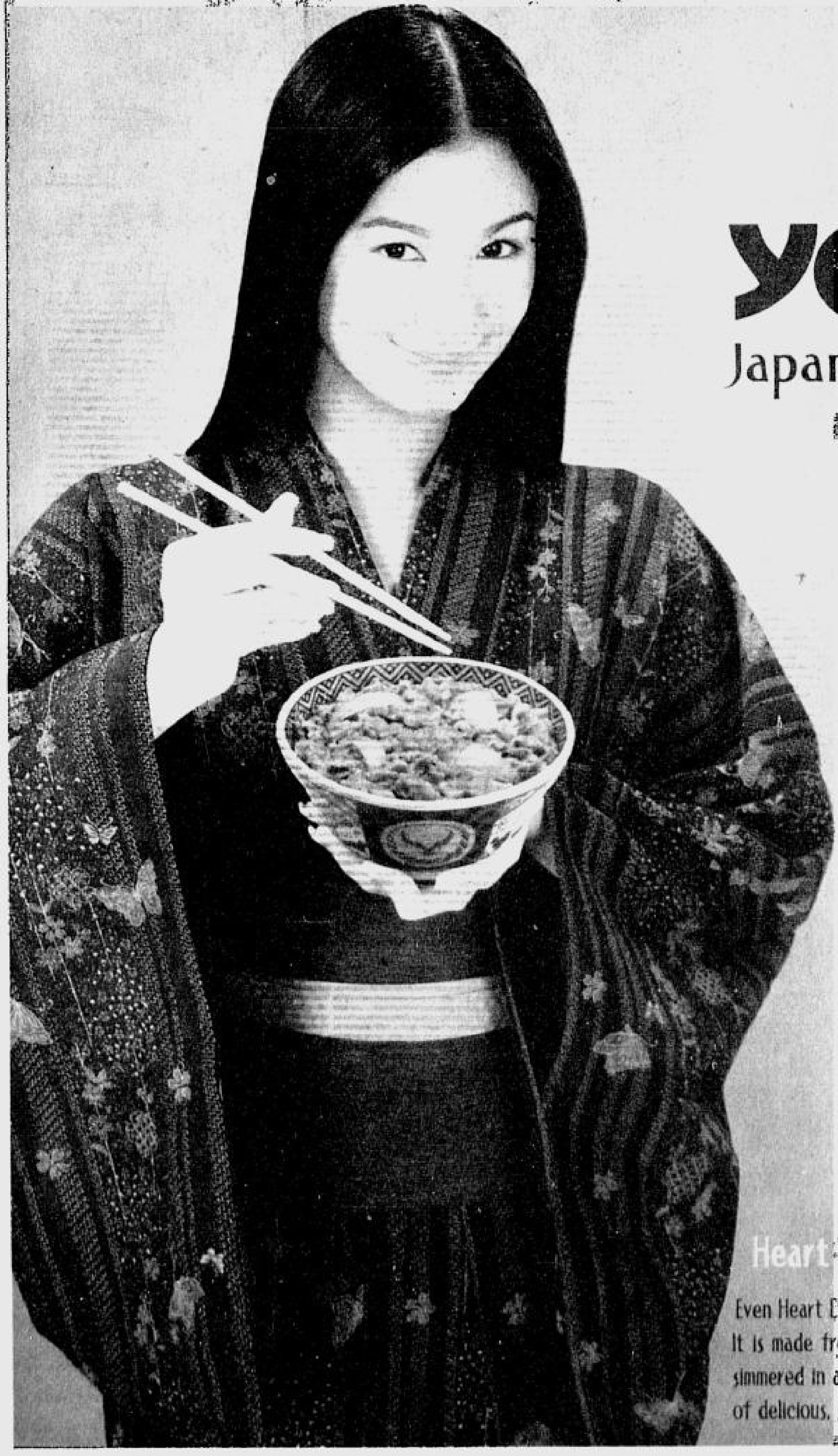


YOSHINOYA

Japan's No.1 Beef Bowl is here!

[illegible]

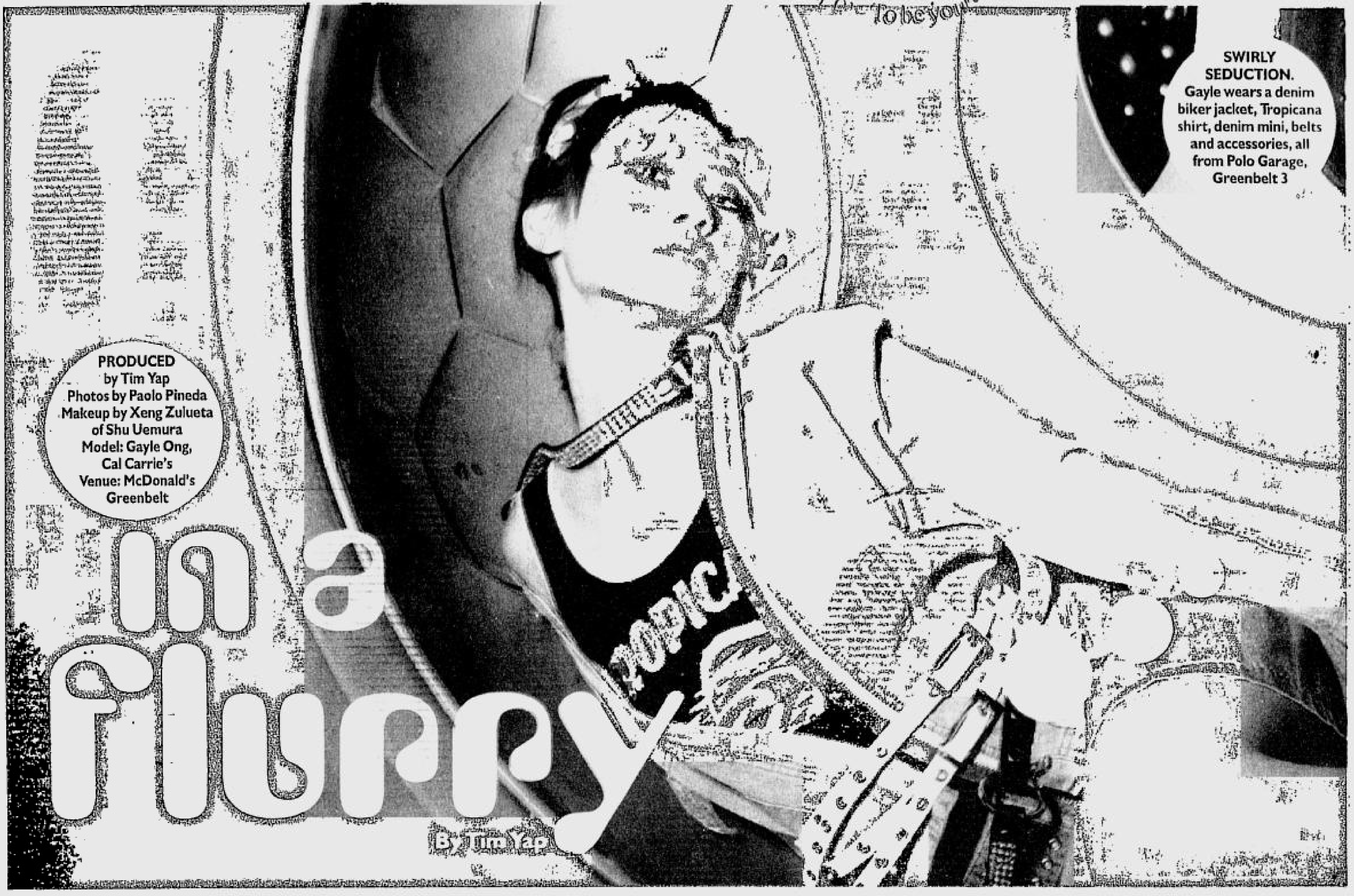
Heart Evangelista

Even Heart Evangelista can't get enough of the Yoshinoya Beef Bowl. It is made from a century old recipe of premium, thinly sliced beef simmered in a savory blend of herb and spices. And served on a bowl of delicious, steaming white rice for a very satisfying and filling meal.

YOSHINOYA 吉野家

# in a flurry

By Tim Yap



**SWIRLY SEDUCTION.** Gayle wears a denim biker jacket, Tropicana shirt, denim mini, belts and accessories, all from Polo Garage, Greenbelt 3

**PRODUCED** by Tim Yap
Photos by Paolo Pineda
Makeup by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura
Model: Gayle Ong, Cal Carrie's
Venue: McDonald's Greenbelt

FASHION'S NEW PHASE? The eccentric muse. She who exudes courage to play and explore her inner self, bringing it out via colors, bold prints and character.

A maximalist, you make-believe you are Leigh Bowery (or Tessa Prieto-Valdes). You start with your paint brush, bangles and beads. You grab your Hello Kitty bag, head over to McDonald's for your Happy Meal and smile as you inhale your fries. Don't worry about your makeup.

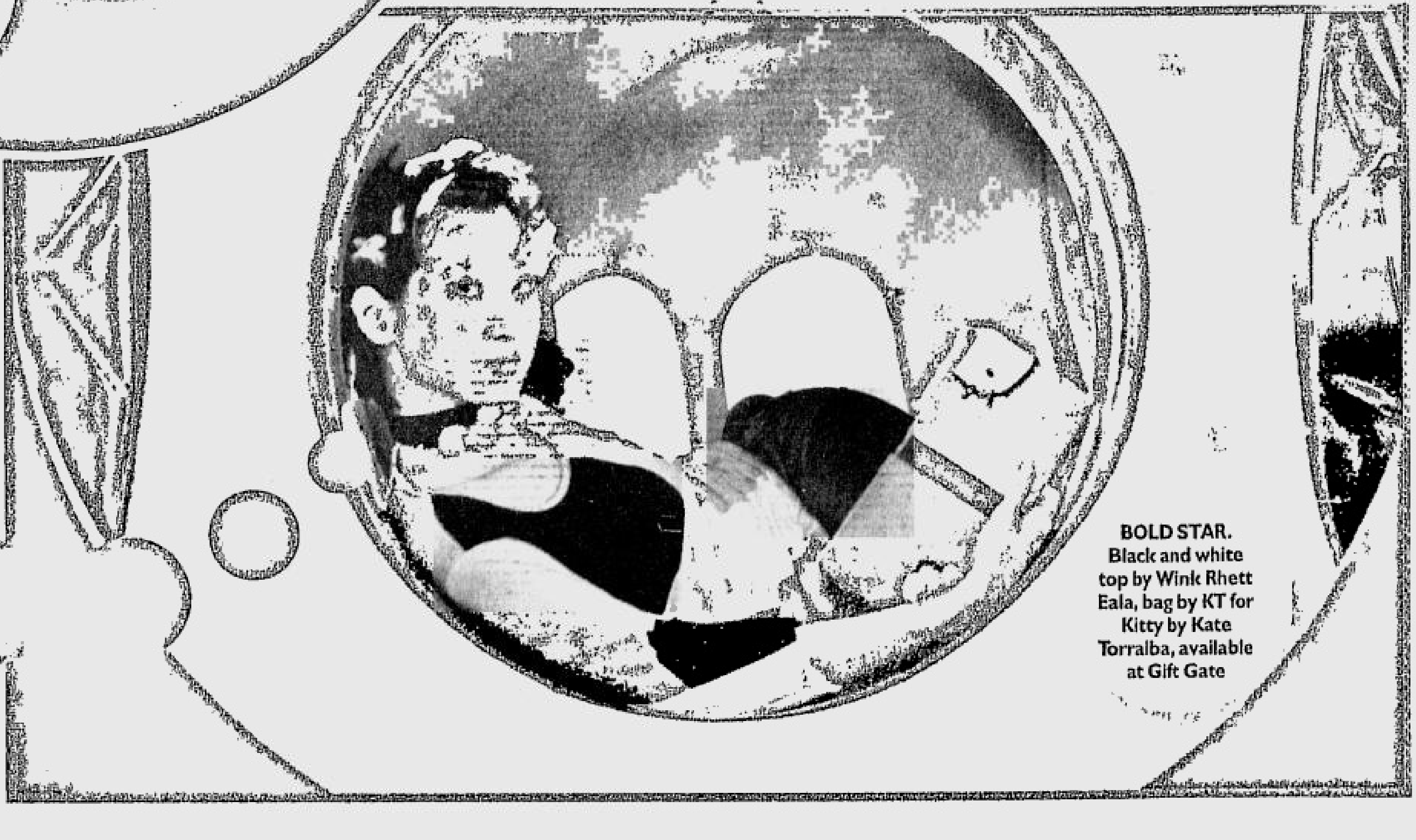
A bad hair day is a good hair day. Who cares if you look like a clown? Dab spots on your face. Lug overweight luggage. Over-accessorize. Over-everything. Walk the walk without breaking your budget. Play with your lashes. Fall in love with polka dots. Shun boredom. Go avant-garde. Be a butterfly.

Enjoy.

**"LOVE KO 'TO!"** In KT for Kitty couture shirt and beaded skirt by Kate Torralba and Hello Kitty bag, all from Gift Gate

**URBAN REBEL.** White tube and old rose top, embroidered pants, all from Wink Rhett Eala

Wax lyrical about a life lived out loud. Put on nail varnish. Wear vests and hats. In fact, wear many hats. Play with your clothes and makeup. Go for pop.



**BOLD STAR.** Black and white top by Wink Rhett Eala, bag by KT for Kitty by Kate Torralba, available at Gift Gate

# Invading Cubao's *'ukay-ukay'* haven

This 'ukay-ukay' is located at #2 Session Road, Farmer's Market Cubao

*Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.*

**GRAPE GLAM.** This purple leather jacket might just provide the right amount of funk your wardrobe needs. P250

**CHOCOLATE** chic. This brown leather jacket is a delicious choice. P280

**CREAM OF THE CROP.** This beige jacket with wooly lining will make you hot in more ways than one. P220

**COLD** nights at the movies would be more comfortable if you have this rich tan velour jacket keeping you warm. P180

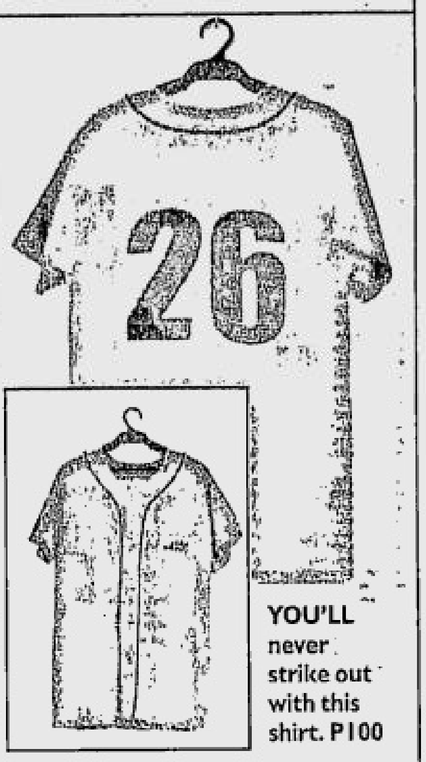
**MAKE** girls roar with this Puma vintage sweater. P150

**PURPLE** dinosaur shirt, P100

**SKATER** boy shirt. P100

**PUNK** meets Pink. P100

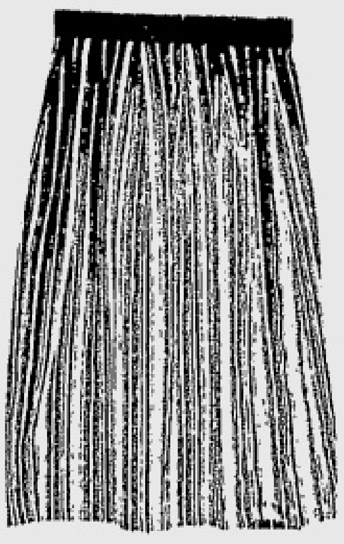
HYUNDAI
MOTOR COMPANY
**BE** fast and furious with this Korean brand. P100

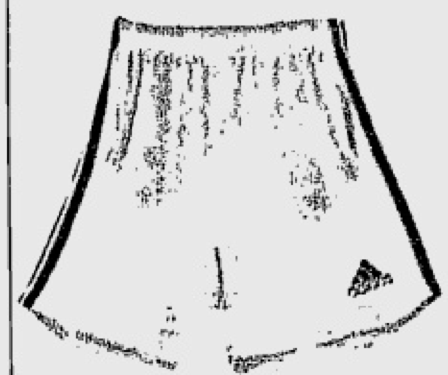


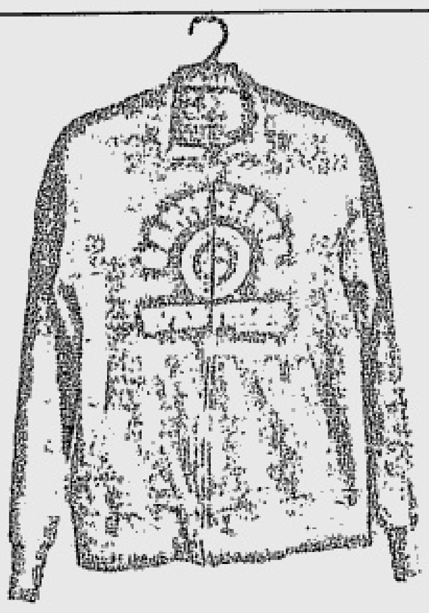
**YOU'LL** never strike out with this shirt. P100

**BE** a metrosexual cowboy with this sleeveless denim jacket with ribbon trimmings. P150

**SLEEVELESS** fleece jacket. P100

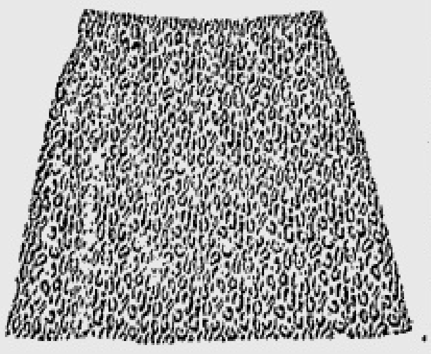

**THIS** multi-colored striped skirt will work with a number of color combinations. P135.

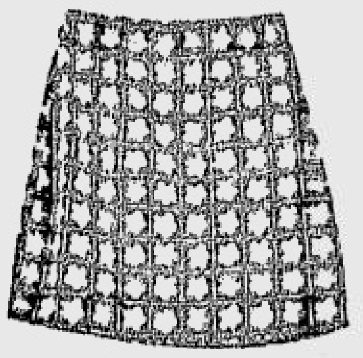

**MISS** the '80s basketball shorts? Here's one from Adidas. P100


**YEAH,** so you never really went to Berkeley. But nobody has to know that, right? P180

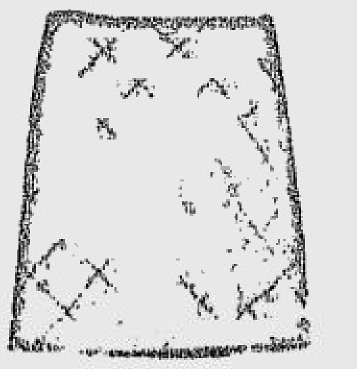
**WE** deserve an oil-price rollback for this promotion. P100

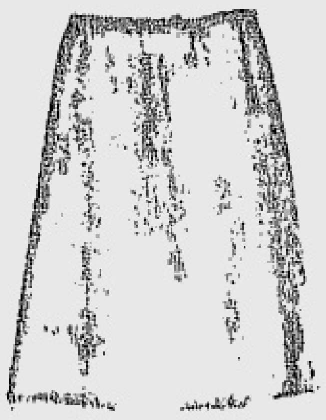
GATE KEEPER
**FOR** boys who like their bikes big. P100


**CAN** you resist this snakeprint skirt? P125


**THIS** skirt is so retro it rocks. P125

**YOU** don't have to be Scottish to wear a kilt. P125


**PLAY** the part of a preppy princess in this plaid piece. P125


**THIS** skirt looks like candy—cotton candy. P135

# Say hello to the new correspondents

FOR weeks, the 2bU! headquarters was swamped with hundreds of applications from young people who wanted to become part of the next batch of 2bU! correspondents.

It took us several months to study each application before cutting down the list to less than a hundred. Two weeks ago, the applicants on the shortlist had to go through another screening process, which involved extemporaneous writing exercises and interviews.

It was a very interesting afternoon. The applicants were asked to bring objects that would represent themselves. Among the items they lugged with them were a gold medal, a Starbucks cup, red shoes, a bag made of juice packs, a blowpop, an exercise CD and a little Chinese sleeping boy.

One of the applicants even pulled out neon condoms and said with aplomb, "Just like a condom, I am ribbed and lubricated. I provide stimulation and I'm easy to get along with."

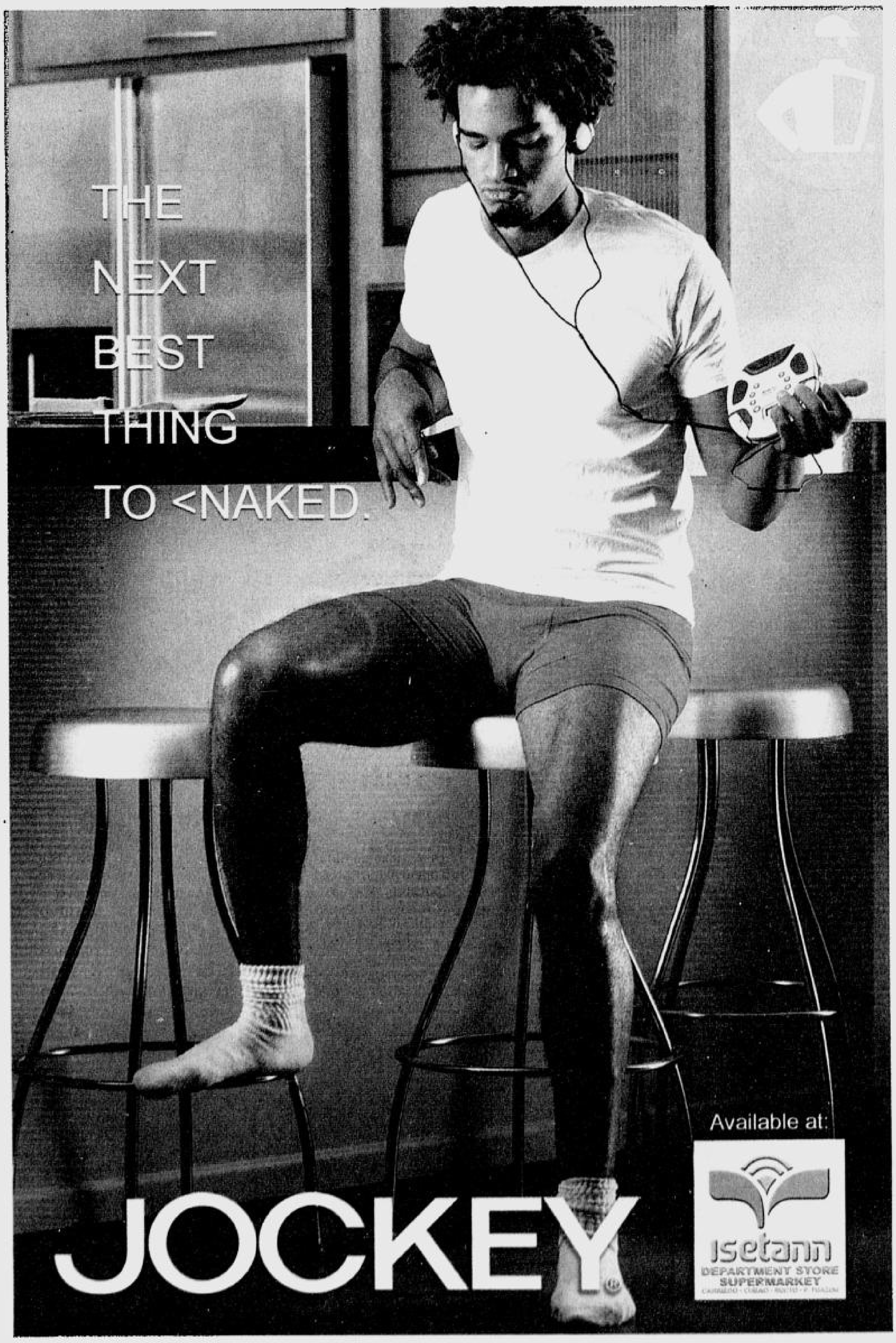
He was, of course, hired.

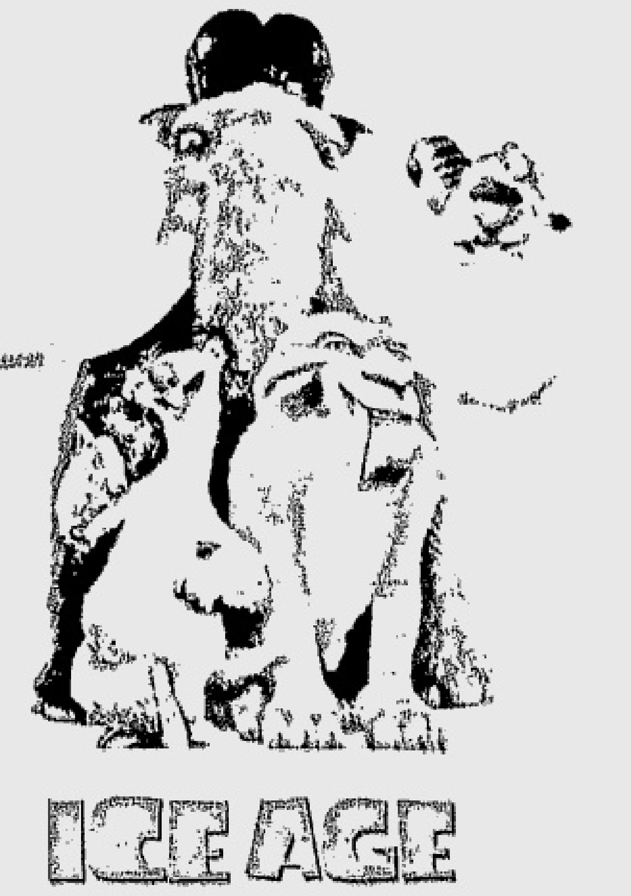
The following people breezed through the screening process with ease. You will soon be seeing their flair for words in future issues of 2bU!

**Cristina Agatep**
**Samantha Ang**
**Jeffrey Pe Benito**
**Pauline Buenaventura**
**Patrick Cabalu**
**Marla Cabanban**
**Bianca Consunji**
**Katrina Denoga**
**Vanessa Arellano Doctor**
**Adrian Dy**
**Lyra Garcellano**
**Joshua Liao**
**Adrian Lim**
**Kris Lim**
**Sam Marcelo**
**Danicar Mariano**
**Jay Mata**
**Marla Miniano**
**Glenn Mugas**
**John Claude Pagdanganan**
**Francine Palines**
**Miao Ramos**
**Brian Keith Santos**
**Cris Silva**
**Bernice Sy**
**Linus Velasco Tiu**
**JR Victorio**
**Katrina Anne Yap**

Congratulations and welcome to the 2bU! family.

*A separate screening will be held for provincial correspondents.*





2BU! PROMO

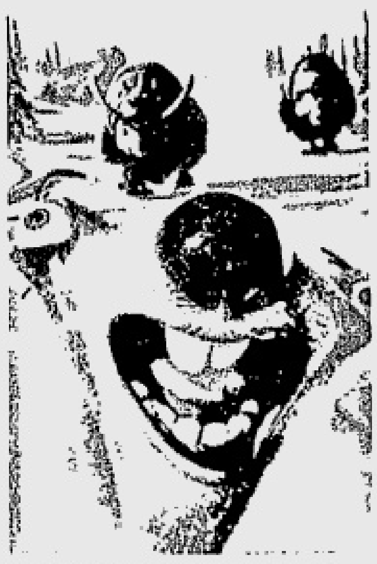
# For accidental misfits only

REMEMBER Sid? Yeah, that clumsy but lovable motor-mouthed sloth in Ice Age, the wacky and cleverly conceived all-digital, animated feature film that spread a lot of warmth, camaraderie and adventure in the midst of a sub-zero climate.

If you've ever been caught in a "Sid" moment, tell us how and you'll get rewarded for it!

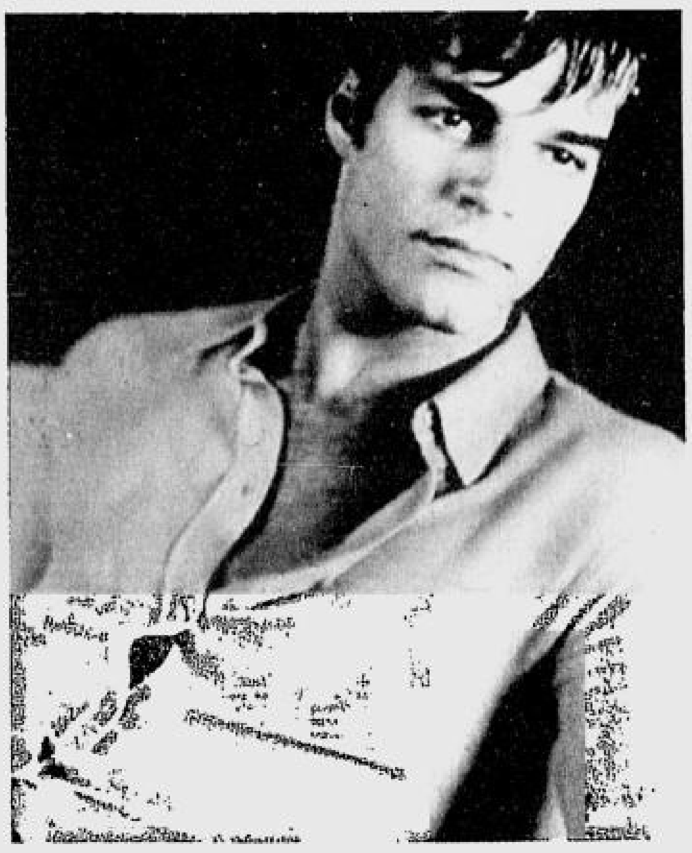
Send us your wacky stories on the biggest trouble you've caused without intending to. Address them to the "Ice Age Trouble promo" at Contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph

Thirty mischievous winners will receive cool prizes such as limited edition neon light ice cubes in glacial pyramid-shaped packing and funky notebooks. Just make sure your entries are in on or before 5 pm, Saturday, Oct. 18.


**SID the motor-mouthed sloth**

Now's your chance to ask for forgiveness (sob, sob) for the troubles you've caused anyone (er, thought we asked for funny ones?).

Oh, by the way, Ice Age will premiere on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, with repeats at 7:30 p.m., Oct 24; 8:30 p.m., Oct 25; and 9 p.m., Oct 30. See for yourself if the troubles you've caused come close to Sid's.



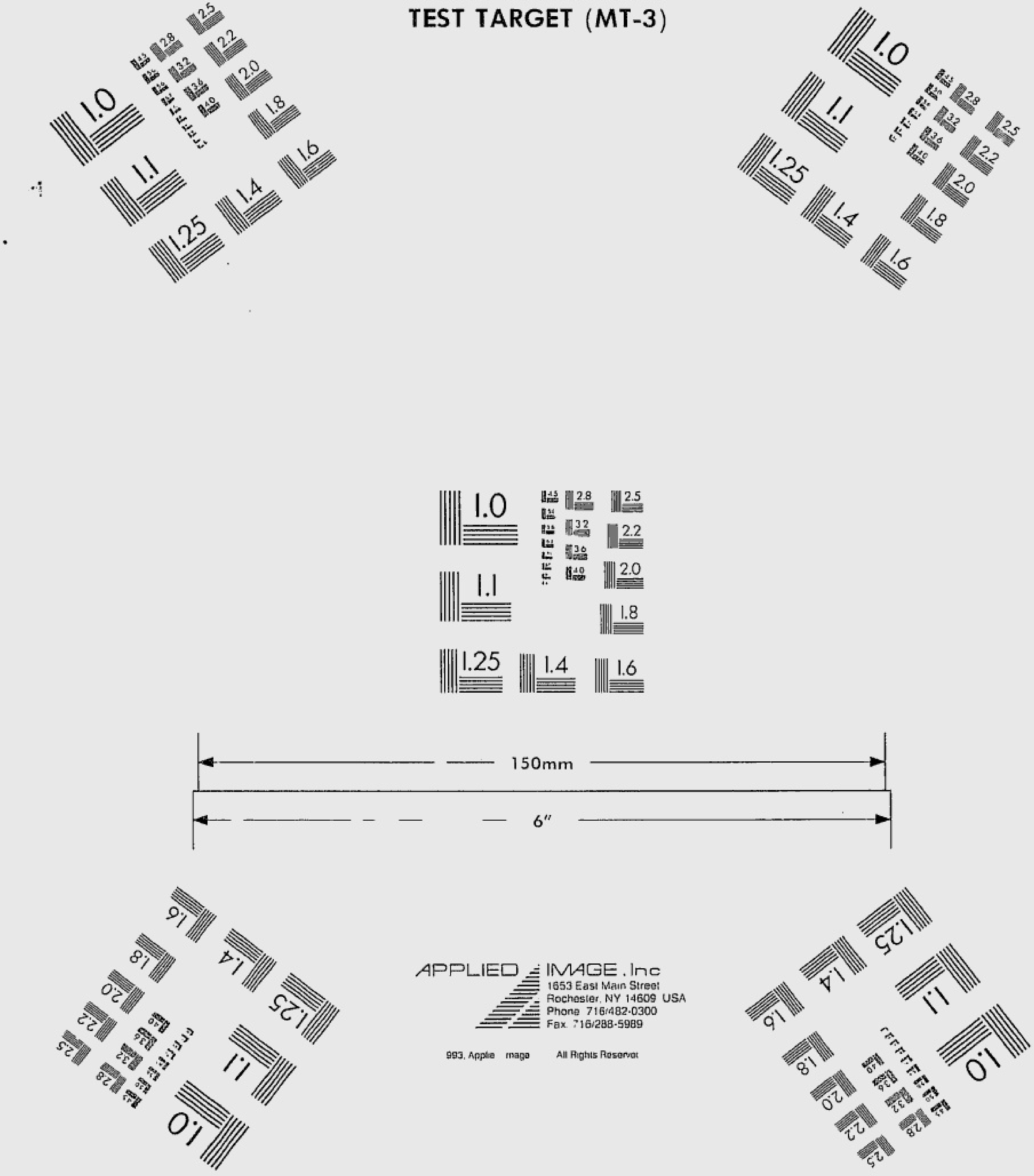
# They're among Ricky Martin's biggest fans

BECAUSE they know the answers to the trivia questions we published some issues back, the following lucky fans will soon be bringing home Ricky Martin goodie bags filled with Ricky Martin CDs, posters and limited-edition picture books:

**Christianne Calata**
**Francis Enrique**
**Armelle Reca Remedio**
**Camille Rose Binuya**
**Oliver Nilo**

You may pick up your prizes from the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati on Mondays, from 3 p.m. onwards. Please look for Pam, Jason or Ruth. Don't forget to bring your ID.

# IMAGE EVALUATION
# TEST TARGET (MT-3)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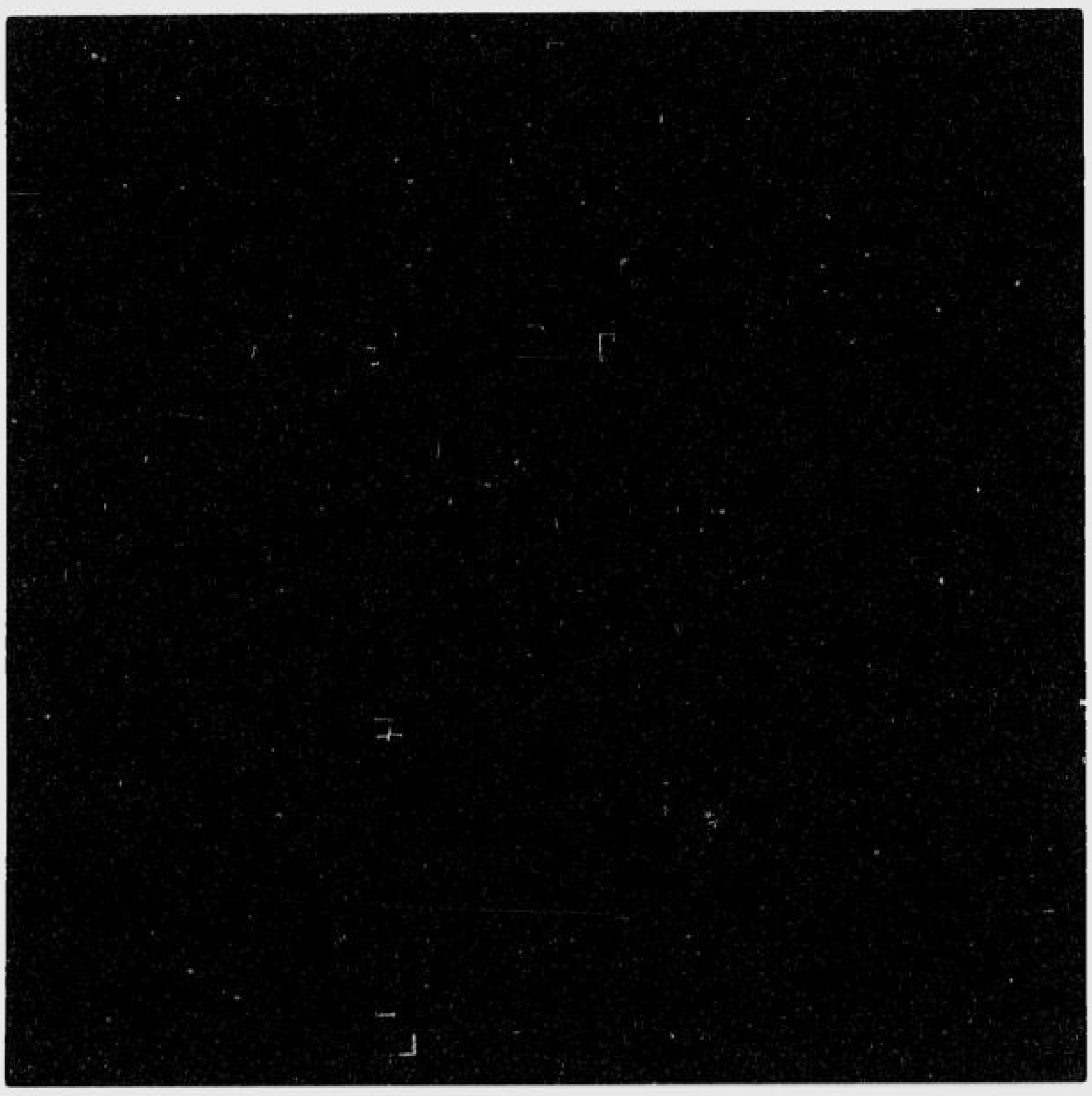

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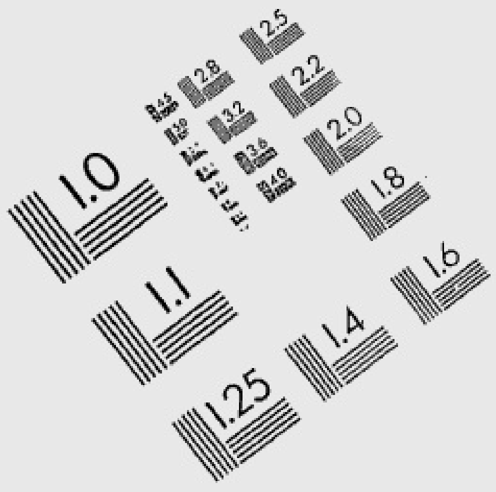
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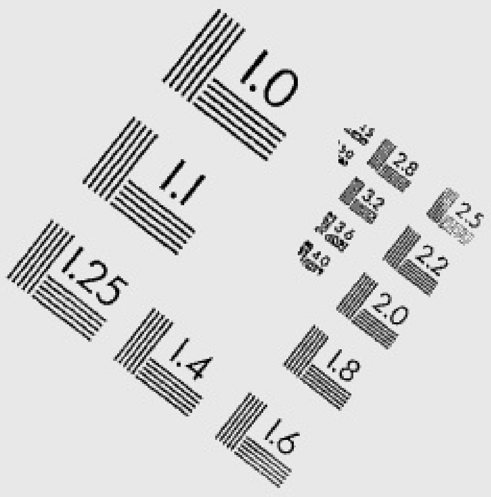
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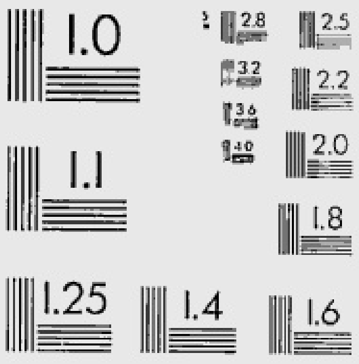
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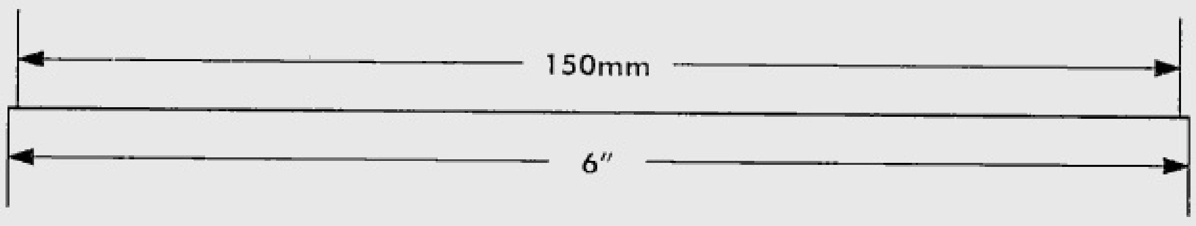

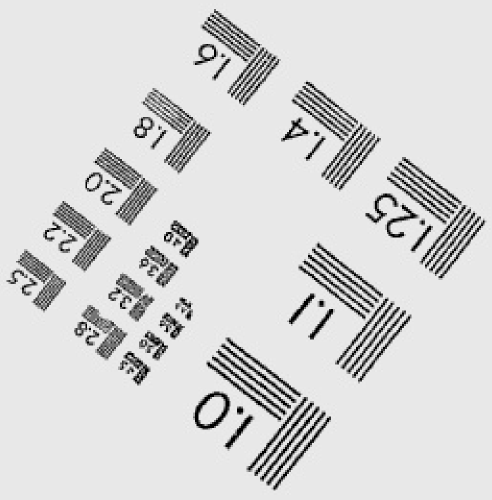
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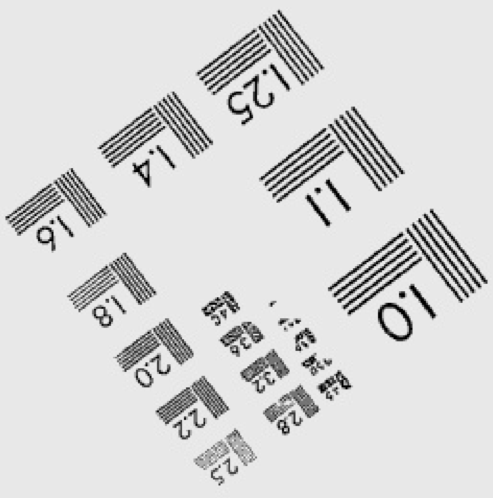
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